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Solar Stocks Bounce After Hitting Bottom

Market corrections lift the sector Tuesday, while some solar companies continue their downward spiral.

by: Alexandra Berzon and Jennifer Kho

Solar stocks -- recently bruised and battered -- were up slightly Tuesday due to what analysts say might be a natural market correction.

The sector had been in free fall since Friday after speculation that an informal congressional committee was considering cutting a key tax credit for renewable energies out of the energy bill. WilderHill Clean Energy Index, for example, fell 14.5 percent to 235 points from Thursday to Monday. During that same period, Evergreen Solar fell 24 percent to \$12.15, SunPower fell 22.6 percent to \$109.88, and Suntech Power fell 13.5 percent to \$56.36.

But Tuesday saw a small turnaround.

Overall, the solar sector was up 7 percent Tuesday afternoon, according to Travis Bradford, president of the Prometheus Institute, a partner of Greentech Media Research. The WilderHill index was up 3.65 percent Tuesday afternoon to \$243.92. Evergreen, Sunpower and Suntech all saw their stocks move up.

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"Investors are recognizing that the last two days were a little bit of an overreaction," said American Technology analyst John Hardy. "Nothing has really changed in the long-term story. All the fundamentals remain the same, but what you're seeing is more about the psychology of investors."

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