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Investing Strategists' Top ETF Buys For 4th Quarter

What should investors bet on in the final stretch of the year? We asked a panel of professional asset managers to share their one best idea for the fourth quarter.

..., CEO of ... in ..., Ma.:... PowerShares Global Alternative Energy (PBD). Some megatrends make these ETFs very compelling: 1) Population growth is expected to reach 9 billion by 2030 (we're close to 7 billion now) and 2) pollution and climate change.

With a growing population, we have greater pressure to use our planet's resources: water, energy, flora and fauna, fossil fuels, and basic materials such as metals. Unless we have a disruptive technology like waste to energy or energy from cold fusion, or cheap safe power storage to save renewables, we will not be able to use our ingenuity and innovation to avoid shortages.

There is better waste-to-energy technology under development, which will help, but will never be a stand-alone solution. Reducing and eliminating pollution just makes common sense even if it did not contribute to causing climate change, which it does.

Therefore clean technology has a bright future. The same goes for alternative or renewable energy. It is cleaner, safer and geopolitically less risky. These companies will be the target for takeovers by traditional, cash-rich, fossil-fuel companies, who want to buy their way into the game and remain an energy player.