5 Clean Energy ETFs Leading the Sector's Surge

While broad markets have had a pretty good 2013, there have been a few sectors that have easily led the way higher. In particular, the clean energy world has had a banner year, with broad gains seen in a number of stocks in the sector.

This space has been assisted by a trend towards growth stocks by a variety of investors as a risk on trade has gripped broad markets as of late. Furthermore, high oil prices and more efficient alternative energy applications have made clean power more viable, adding even more interest in the sector

Thanks to these trends, clean energy ETFs have been star performers, pretty much across the board. However, a few have really taken off in the past few months, and we have highlighted the best performers in this space for those looking to ride the strong momentum wave in the clean energy ETF world a little longer:

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PowerShares Global Clean Energy ETF (PBD - ETF report) This ETF tracks the WilderHill New Energy Global Innovation Index, charging investors 75 basis points a year in fees for the exposure. In total, the ETF has about 100 companies in its basket, while assets under management come in at just over \$75 million.

The fund focuses on companies that are engaged in greener and renewable sources of energy, or firms that focus on technologies that facilitate cleaner energy. Top sectors include technology (36%) and industrials (29.5%), while assets are well spread out; no single company makes up more than 3% of the total fund.

There is a well spread out profile from a country look too, as the U.S. takes the top spot at 37.4%, while China (12.9%) and Denmark (5.2%) round out the top three (see <u>all the Alternative Energy ETFs</u>).

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It is important to remember though, that we have been here before in the clean energy space. For years, if not decades, investors thought that the time for investing in alternative fuel sources was just around the corner. Each time, however, big gains were followed by even bigger losses, dulling the appeal of the space for a time.

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