A Primer on Alternate Energy ETFs

Alternative energy, green power solutions as they are called, is the most discussed topic these days given the ardent attempt to combat global warming worldwide.

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ETFs to Tap the Sector

For investors seeking to play this trend in ETF form, the following series of alternative energy ETFs could make interesting picks.

WilderHill Clean Energy Portfolio (PBW - ETF report)

Launched in March 2005, PBW tracks the WilderHill Clean Energy Index and manages an asset base of \$139.3 million which it invests in a portfolio of 53 stocks.

It is well diversified across various sectors. Information Technology takes the top spot with a 41.58% allocation followed by Industrials (24.16%) and Utilities (14.86%).

The fund's top 10 holdings jointly contribute 27.32%. The product invests almost 90% in companies that are involved in the generation of cleaner energy. It charges a hefty 70 basis points in fees.

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Global Clean Energy Portfolio (PBD - ETF report)

This ETF follows the WilderHill New Energy Global Innovation Index, giving investors exposure to about 104 companies that are engaged in renewable sources of energy and technologies facilitating cleaner energy.

Assets under management are just over \$64.6 million and the expense ratio is 81 basis points a year. In terms of performance, PBD has rewarded investors with returns of 30.29% in a 3-year span. The fund's top 10 holdings contribute 19.3% to it.

PBD is heavy in Industrials, as this represents 36.81% of the fund. This is followed by Information Technology (32.11%) and Utilities (20.15%). In terms of countries, the U.S. dominates with 32.07% followed by China with 15.25%.

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