

Excerpt from Green Buildings, February 23, 2012

<http://www.green-buildings.com/content/782253-green-jobs-renewable-energy-stocks-investments-grow>

Green Jobs: Renewable Energy Stocks, Investments Grow

According to The Wall Street Journal's Marketwatch, **renewable energy stocks** are skyrocketing in early 2012.

For example, the PowerShares Wilderhill Clean Energy Portfolio has grown over 22% in 2012, beating the Dow Jones by about 72% in the same time period.

These renewable energy stocks are growing rapidly despite forecasts for weak growth in the sector.

However, global clean energy investments topped \$1 trillion for the first time in 2011, marking a milestone in the renewable energy sector. Additionally, EIC Consult reported that renewable energy will continue to become an important part of the U.S. energy portfolio - though it needs to compete with cheap gas to succeed.

Clean Energy Investments Topped \$1 Trillion

Renewable energy investments have been on the rise significantly in recent years. A 2011 report provided some idea of the progress the world has made when it comes to adopting clean energy, which is limiting the use of fossil fuels and increasing the market for renewable energy jobs.

Bloomberg New Energy Finance reported that the **clean energy industry** has benefited from more than \$1 trillion in investment dollars since it began tracking the metric in 2004. The figure is considered a milestone achievement that demonstrates the commitment individuals, organizations and governments around the world have made to renewable energy.

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Bloomberg added that clean energy investments have increased at a compound annual rate of 29 percent since 2004, topping out at \$243 billion last year. Solar thermal projects on domestic soil and wind energy development abroad could make 2011 a record-setting year for investments, which may create new wind and solar energy jobs for qualified professionals.

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