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<http://247wallst.com/2010/11/19/top-investment-trends-for-futurists-ffd-afk-eza-pho-pio-pxn-tiny-lit-bp-pbw-pzd-pbd-remx-nlr-moo-gld-bbh-ibb-fpx-ipox-2/>

Top Investment Trends For Futurists

Futurists are an odd lot. Generally, they are authors, scientists, consultants and economists. What many people don't know is that investors follow this philosophy as well. Their goal is to pick winning investment themes over the next decade or so.

Predicting markets and economic patterns is difficult over the next 20 years because there are many unknowns. After all, who will be President in 2016? What will tax laws be in 2020? Which of today's deadly diseases will be cured in 2020? Which regions will experience wars by 2020? This is why futurism may be one of the more unique approaches in investing. ETFs are often called the mutual funds of the future and our goal is to meld a futurist outlook into an investing strategies.

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Alternative Energy, In A Broader Sense

Investing in alternative energy may hold the promise of the future. It has also been very painful even for futurists with a decade or longer outlook. True futurists may seek an answer out of wind, solar, wave, geothermal, biofuels and even nuclear energy. Not all alternative energy is technically renewable. But the world needs alternative energy sources. That is no longer even debated in public by most oil executives.

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PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy (NYSE: PBW) is one of the go-to ETF products in alternative energy. The fund is meant to track the performance of the WilderHill Clean Energy index. Its largest holdings do seem to be more geared toward solar, which is most established alternative energy technology. Some of its key components are First Solar, Broadwind Energy, IDACORP, JA Solar, and Suntech Power. The fund has more than \$550 million in assets, it trades over 300,000 shares per day, and its 52-week range is roughly \$8.25 to \$11.95. The biggest issue is performance as it was worth over \$25 at the 2008 peak versus close to \$10.00 currently.

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An even more international focus in clean energy is the PowerShares Global Clean Energy (NYSE: PBD). Its focus is to track the performance of the WilderHill New Energy Global Innovation index and many more companies are global. Most of its larger constituent members are not known to most US investors. The market cap is fairly small at about \$160 million, it trades about 40,000 shares a day, and its 52-week range is \$11.51 to \$17.64. It is far from alone in performance anxiety as this was above \$30 at the peak and it is closer to \$13.00 in November-2010.

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