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## **Record oil prices fueling interest in alternative energy investments**

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**By Lisa Sorg**

Fossil fuels have yet to go the way of the dinosaur, but public sentiment may be cooling toward traditional energy sources. Record oil prices have jacked the cost of gasoline to nearly \$3 a gallon. Scientists warn of drastic climatic change due to greenhouse gases, a byproduct of coal, oil and gasoline emissions. And nuclear power, while touted as cleaner than fossil fuels, is still hampered by the pesky problem of radioactive waste.

Renewable energy's environmental and technological promise has prompted some investors to funnel at least a portion of their dollars into alternative energy stocks, mutual funds and index funds. Although alternative, or clean, energy companies don't receive the billions of dollars in federal subsidies afforded the fossil fuel and nuclear industries, it still represents an estimated \$40 billion global market, and is projected to reach \$167 billion worldwide within the next decade.

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The Wilderhill Clean Energy Index is up 22 percent year-to-date and the New Alternatives Fund posted an 18 percent gain over last year.

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### **Clean energy investing resources**

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- Wilderhill Clean Energy Index (ECO)
- Wilderhill New Energy Global Innovation Index (NEX) [wilderhill.com](http://wilderhill.com)

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