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US Cleantech Index to Launch

The index for green technologies is expected to hit American Stock Exchange this week.

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**-Robert Wilder,
WilderShares**

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Energy Index

The announcement also comes as the first global clean-energy index was going live.

The WilderHill Clean Energy Global Innovation Index, an index that tracks global clean-energy companies, was announced last week (see Tracking Clean Energy Globally.) Robert Wilder, president of WilderShares, one of the groups launching the global index, said the index will go live Tuesday night and should begin appearing on screens under the NEX ticker Wednesday.

The first such index, the WilderHill Clean Energy Index, began tracking U.S. clean-energy companies in August 2004, and the PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy Portfolio, an exchange-traded fund to mirror the index, launched last February (see Clean Capital).

According to the Cleantech Capital Group, discussions are under way to license the new Cleantech Index for financial products, including an exchange-traded fund.

Unlike the WilderHill clean-energy indexes, which only include companies that are involved with clean energy, the Cleantech Index is broader.

Aside from clean energy such as wind and solar, the Cleantech Index will include green technologies in such areas as recycling, transportation and logistics, water purification and management, air quality, materials and nanotechnology, manufacturing, agriculture and nutrition, materials recovery, and

environmental IT.

Of course, clean energy is a subsector of cleantech, so there is some overlap and the Cleantech Index could be

seen as somewhat of a competitor to the WilderHill indices.

But Mr. Wilder said the index helps to fill a void. "I think they bring considerable expertise to the broader topic of cleantech—it's a good index—and they don't directly compete with our clean-energy index," he said. "An investor might well want to have both indexes."

Important Sign

The fact that someone else wants to launch another index is a sign that cleantech is a very real field, he said.

"With clean energy and clean technologies growing as fast as they are, one has to expect that more than one fund product is going to cover the field," he added. "More and more investors want to be in the space."

Mr. Wilder said more indexes are coming, and will be entering the Securities and Exchange Commission registration process in the next few months. The attraction is not surprising considering that, at less than one year old, the PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy Portfolio already manages about \$250 million, he noted.

"The fact that we've grown so very quickly, and that we've drawn a lot of attention for our growth, means we're likely to generate a lot of competitors," he said. "But I think there's a fair amount of space. I fully expect we're not going to own this field as a sole player in clean energy for very much longer. I just hope our growth doesn't cause people to rush in and put up something that is half-baked."