

Excerpt from Seeking Alpha, March 17, 2010

<http://seekingalpha.com/article/194121-go-green-for-st-patrick-s-day-3-alternative-energy-etfs?source=yahoo>

'Go Green' for St. Patrick's Day: 3 Alternative Energy ETFs

So far in 2010 one of the worst-performing sectors has been alternative energy, with some ETFs on pace to post double digit losses in the first quarter.

This sharp downturn is due to a variety of factors that have combined to yield one of the worst stretches for the industry in recent memory. First, trouble in [Europe](#) has led to a strengthening of the dollar, which has helped to keep crude oil prices in check (until recently at least). With oil below \$80 for most of the early part of the year, cries for development of alternative energy sources have been quieted.

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However, some are forecasting that the worst may be behind the up-and-coming industry. With renewed economic activity in [China](#), many are predicting an increased energy demand for the country that cannot be met by traditional fuel sources alone. Closer to home, a weaker dollar looks likely in the near term as the Greek and European debt situation appears to be under control, at least for now.

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Historically, periods of high oil prices have coincided with increased calls for development of clean energy alternatives (and spurred investment in the sector). If these issues are more than short-term problems, alternative energy could get a boost. For [contrarian investors](#) hoping for a second quarter rebound, consider these three beaten down alternative [energy ETFs](#), all of which are down more than 10% this year.

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PowerShares Global Clean Energy Portfolio (PBD)

Another option available to investors is PBD, which follows the [WilderHill New Energy Global Innovation Index](#). This benchmark

tracks the performance of firms that specialize in greener and generally renewable sources of energy and technologies facilitating cleaner energy. Due to the fund's focus on "innovation" it has a significant **small-cap** tilt, with over 30% of the assets going towards firms with less than one billion in market capitalization. The fund uses a modified equal weighting system, so it generally has a more even distribution among its holdings than some of the other funds in the alternative energy sector.

In fact, the largest holding for PBD makes up just under 2.5% compared to over 9% for the largest components in ...XXXX and ...XXXX . PBD is down 10.2% this year but it is up more than 50% over the past year. PBD charges an expense ratio of 0.75%.

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