

Excerpt from Forbes, July 1, 2008

[http://www.forbes.com/2008/07/01/wind-energy-closer-markets-comment\\_ra\\_0701markets43.html?partner=yahootix](http://www.forbes.com/2008/07/01/wind-energy-closer-markets-comment_ra_0701markets43.html?partner=yahootix)

## Wind Sees Green

Ruthie Ackerman

Wind is powering the clean energy revolution.

Investment in clean energy hit record highs in 2007, creating a "green energy gold rush," a United Nations study said Tuesday, with wind power being the hottest alternative.

"Just as thousands were drawn to California and the Klondike in the late 1800s, the green energy gold rush is attracting legions of modern day prospectors in all parts of the globe," said Achim Steiner, head of the United Nations Environment Program.

"What is unfolding is nothing less than a fundamental transformation of the world's energy infrastructure."

Investing interest in alternative energy reached a crescendo around the end of last year. **PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy** (amex: [PBW - news - people](#)), an exchange-traded fund that invests in alternative power sources, gained 60.4% last year, but is down 31.4% so far in 2008. The solar-heavy vehicle fell 1.6% on Tuesday, losing 31 cents, to \$19.24.

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The UN report revealed that more than \$148.0 billion was invested in the sustainable [energy sector](#) globally in 2007, up 60.0% from 2006, even as the [credit crunch](#) squeezed the financial markets.

"The clean [energy industry](#) is maturing and its backers remain bullish," said Steiner.

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