

Excerpt from BusinessWeek, July 16, 2009

<http://bx.businessweek.com/buyingstocks/view?url=http%3A%2F%2Fpennysleuth.com%2Fthis-dirty-industrys-secret-green-penny-play%2F>

This “Dirty” Industry’s Secret “Green” Penny Play

There are no two ways about it... investing in environmentally friendly companies is a powerful trend that will sustain itself for quite some time.

Green stocks — like solar panel manufacturers, wind farm builders, and clean fuel developers — have seen share prices race ahead of the rest of the market in recent months. Since the beginning of the year, the Wilderhill Clean Energy Index has rallied 9.08% versus a 1.68% loss for the market at large.

Individual companies have fared even better. Just look at ... and..., green companies that have netted investors 32% and 46% respectively since January.

The allure of green companies isn’t relegated to Wall Street, however. Main Street is going green, too.

With the demise of our country’s traditional manufacturing base, growing numbers of now unemployed Americans are looking for manufacturing jobs at green companies. The growth rate of these green jobs has been quite robust. The Associated Press reports the renewable energy sector has added jobs at more than twice the national rate for nearly a decade. Now, we can look forward to even more money flowing into renewable energy projects, thanks to government interest.

That influx of jobs and money has even made its way to Motor City.

Where line workers in Ford, GM, and Chrysler automotive plants once had few options during past recession-induced layoffs, manufacturing jobs with green companies have become a welcome alternative to the unemployment line. Between 1998 and 2007 Michigan saw a 10.7% increase in clean energy jobs — a trend that’s continued into 2009.

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