

Excerpt from Dow Jones Newswire, February 6, 2009

<http://thethincritic.blogspot.com/2009/02/my-professional-opinion-on-clean-energy.html>

Dow Jones Newswire: My professional opinion on clean energy investments.

GETTING PERSONAL: Green Investments Warming Up

NEW YORK (Dow Jones)--Green investments may be poised to warm up after months of chilly returns.

Once overheated but now lagging like most stocks, shares in companies tied to alternative energy are getting new attention because of President Barack Obama's policies and worldwide pressures to decrease carbon emissions.

The investments, though now considered by many stock analysts to be cheap, are not risk-free. The credit crisis has created serious obstacles for many clean tech firms, and more will stall if there's a protracted recession. It's also difficult to predict what companies will survive as new technologies evolve.

Still, experts are banking on the industry because they expect gas prices to eventually rise again and greater focus on the environment already has begun.

"We have greater confidence than ever before that, with Obama in place, clean energy is ready for prime time," says Eric Becker, vice president and portfolio manager at Trillium Asset Management in Boston.

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"For investor with a long time horizon, this is a great time to be buying stocks in the clean energy space in the smart grid space and the energy efficiency space," says Becker of Trillium. "Diversification is particularly important in this area because risk to individual companies is high."

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Another possibility is to spread the risk by investing in a green mutual fund or exchange-traded fund. Investors need to keep in mind that both fees and funds' investing approaches vary significantly. Some are more aggressive than others, and many are dramatically lower in the last year.

Some frequently recommended funds include and PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy (PBW).