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## **Zacks Investment Ideas feature highlights: Tesla Motors, coal ETF, Market Vectors Uranium & Nuclear Energy ETF, Guggenheim Solar ETF and PowerShares Wilderhill Clean Energy ETF**

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2013 has been a good year for the alternative energy space, pretty much across the board. Solar companies have seen their share prices surge, while firms that use 'green' technology--like Tesla Motors (Nasdaq:TSLA)--have become market darlings.

While there is a bit of debate if this trend can continue in the near term, and especially in a choppy market, there is hope for the space thanks to politics. Recently, President Obama outlined a new 'Climate Change Action Plan', which could act as a new catalyst for the industry and continue the positive momentum in the space (also see Clean Energy ETFs: The Real Bull Market?).

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PowerShares Wilderhill Clean Energy ETF (AMEX:PBW)

Beyond specific programs targeting renewables or power plants, the plan also outlined a number of broad initiatives which could benefit the entire sector. For example, funding for clean energy technology is expected to increase by 30% in the fiscal year 2014 budget, while steps are also being taken to expand and modernize the electric grid.

Beyond that, the plan also looks to improve energy efficiency across the board, while also reducing a variety of other non-carbon emissions as well. Clearly, the program is intended to be wide in scope, potentially benefiting a variety of clean energy firms in the process.

Fortunately for investors, there are a number of ways to play the broad clean energy space with ETFs ....

This ETF does a solid level of volume of just under 400,000 shares a day, holding about 50 companies in its basket. The focus is on technology firms (40%), but industrials, basic materials, utilities, and consumer discretionary all receive double digits allocations as well.

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