## Studies Highlight Growth in Renewable Energy

A pair of recent reports on the growth of renewable energy show how renewable sources are growing rapidly in response to global energy needs. They also show we have a long way to go to replace traditional energy sources. First, Exxon Mobil (XOM) has released its annual Outlook for Energy which forecasts energy demand until 2030. Here are some of the highlights:

Global energy demand is forecast to grow at an annual rate of $1.3 \%$ per year, with the developing world growing a a $2 \%$ rate, and the developed at $0.5 \%$ per year.
0 . Hydrocarbons will make up $80 \%$ of energy use through 2030. Oil and gas will be $60 \%$ of the total energy use.

0 . Wind, solar and biofuels will have excellent growth of $9 \%$ per year. However, these sources now only provide $0.5 \%$ of world energy use and will be only $2 \%$ in 2030.
0. ....

Investments into new renewable power resources will total \$66 billion for 2007 up from $\$ 55$ billion in 2006 and $\$ 29$ billion in 2005. As an investor, I am extremely interested in the long term potential of renewable energy. These number back up the potential of this sector. I also find the valuations of the better know stocks in this sector to be quite distasteful. If the company is profitable, the multiples are huge. If the company is still developing its technology, will it be profitable in the long run? Finally, many of the attractive renewable companies are only traded in Europe.

My choice to invest in the renewable sector is the ETF: Powershares Global Clean Energy Portfolio (PBD). PBD mirrors the WilderHill Global New Energy Innovation Index NEX. I like this index because it keeps a fairly even weighting of 80+ stocks from 20+ countries and is rebalanced quarterly. PBD is a component of this site's 20 Stock Portfolio.

