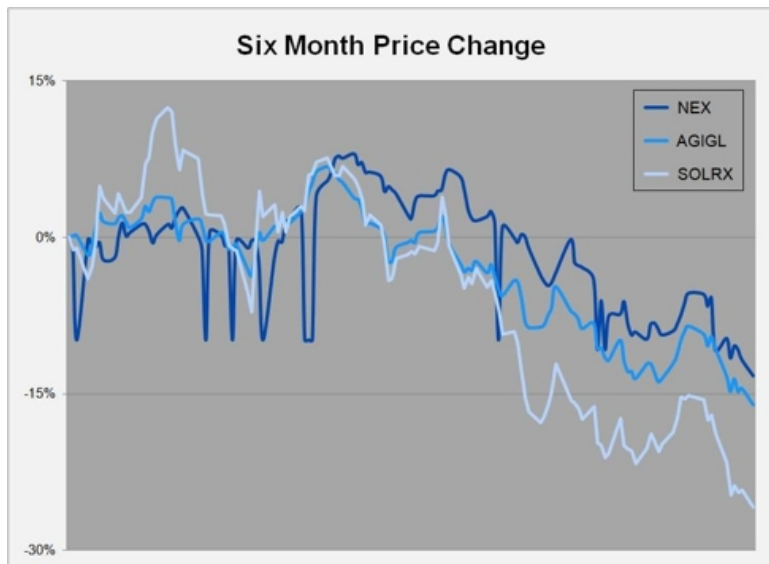


Excerpt from Seeking Alpha, July 22, 2011

<http://seekingalpha.com/article/281182-alternative-energy-prices-down-investments-up>

## Alternative Energy: Prices Down, Investments Up

If you follow alternative energy stocks, you have likely noticed a disturbing price trend. The widely watched WilderHill New Energy Global Index (NEX) is nearing the all-time lows that it struck in early 2009. The Ardour Global Index (AGIGL), a broad benchmark of alternative energy companies, is down over 11% from a year ago, and down 66% from its high in late 2008. Solar stocks have been hit the worst, with the Ardour Solar Energy Index (SOLRX) down fully a third from its recent peak just five months ago. These types of numbers test the mettle of an alternative energy investor.



This is in sharp contrast to information just released by [Bloomberg New Energy Finance](#). In the report, Bloomberg states that new investments in clean energy projects **jumped substantially** in the second quarter of 2011. New investments were 22% higher than a year ago, up to \$41.7 billion globally. This was a 27% jump from new investments in the first quarter of 2011. This made the second quarter of 2011 the *third highest*

*quarterly number on record.*

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What does this jump in new investment, and contrasting drop in stock prices, mean for the clean energy sector? I see this as a clear buying opportunity for the long-term investor in alternative energy companies. Even on a bad day, I remain convinced that alternative energy companies will benefit from a long-term secular trend that is moving the world toward a clean energy mix. By holding a portfolio high-quality companies diversified by size, alternative energy sector and geographic location, a patient investor can ride out the dips and be well positioned for the gains. So if you have the stomach for it, this may be the perfect time to add to your positions.