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<http://blogs.wsj.com/moneybeat/2013/12/27/under-the-radar-clean-energy-etfs-were-lights-out/>

Under the Radar, Clean-Energy ETFs Were Lights Out

High-flying Internet stocks grabbed the attention this year, but it was clean-energy exchange-traded funds that really cleaned up.

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And it wasn't just solar. The ... and the \$85 million PowerShares [Global Clean Energy](#) [GCEI +5.88%](#) Portfolio (PBD) both soundly thumped the S&P 500's 29% gain, surging 68% and 51%, respectively.

All these ETFs rebounded from negative or flat performance in 2012, a year when the S&P 500 rallied 13%.

Paving the way for the clean-energy sector's advance was an improving outlook for the beaten-down solar industry and some help from day-trader darlings like [Tesla Motors Inc.](#) [TSLA -0.36%](#), which shot up 350% this year.

Strong gains in solar stocks probably came as a surprise to investors who watched the industry implode in recent years, buffeted by an oversupply of cheap panels, especially from China. [First Solar Inc.](#) [FSLR -1.22%](#), last year's most volatile stock on the S&P 500, is up 80% in 2013.

But the industry has been consolidating and demand is picking up.

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