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## **Making the Best of \$78-a-Barrel Oil**

### **Investors Are Flocking To Slew of Offerings In Hot Energy Markets**

By **ELEANOR LAISE**

As oil prices hit new highs, investors are finding new opportunities -- and new risks -- in the energy sector.

Money managers say individual investors, hoping to tap into the energy gains, have been moving beyond traditional energy plays like buying shares of big oil producers to pour money into more exotic instruments.

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### **Clean Alternatives**

Funds that aim to profit from growing demand for solar panels, wind turbines, and other clean or alternative energy sources are among the most popular -- and most volatile -- of the new breed of energy plays.

Though alternative energy investments can benefit from sustained higher oil prices, they're not closely linked to short-term commodity-price movements, experts say. If oil is up one week and down the next, that's "not a good reason to trade in and out of clean energy," says Rob Wilder, manager of the WilderHill Clean Energy Index, the benchmark tracked by the [PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy](#) ETF.

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