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<http://247wallst.com/2011/07/25/first-solar-can-it-save-the-solar-sector-fslr-csiq-ldk-tsl-tan-icln-pbw-pbd-pzd-kwt/>

First Solar: Can It Save the Solar Sector? (... PBW, PBD, ...)

Earnings from global leader First Solar Inc. (NASDAQ: FSLR) are due tomorrow, and while EPS estimates for the company have fallen from just over \$2/share to \$0.92/share in the past three months, First Solar remains a top pick in the solar sector. Lowered expectations for the sector are also weighing on the ETFs focused on **clean energy**.

First Solar is expected to report EPS of \$0.92 on revenue of \$584 million. Last quarter the company posted EPS of \$1.33. Chinese producer **Canadian Solar Inc.** (NASDAQ: CSIQ) today named a new CFO and also reported that its gross margins for the second quarter would be at the lower end of its outlook. LDK Solar Inc. (NYSE: LDK) and Trina Solar Ltd. (NYSE: TSL) have also recently replaced CFOs as a variety of accounting issues have begun to plague Chinese solar makers.

Solar producers make up a significant portion of the **investments** in several clean energy ETFs. These funds include ... the PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy ETF (NYSE: PBW), the PowerShares Global Clean Energy ETF (NYSE: PBD),

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The PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy ETF (NYSE: PBW) holds total assets of about \$415 million. The fund recently replaced First Solar as its top holding with Emcore Corp., a maker of solar cells and concentrating solar PV systems. ... this fund is diversified throughout the clean energy sector, but year-to-date results have been poor, down -15.5%.

The PowerShares Global Clean Energy ETF (NYSE: PBD) is an equal weighted fund that holds about \$180 million in assets among nearly 100 stocks, none of which accounts for more than 2% of holdings. The fund is down more than -5% so far this year.

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