New investment in clean energy falls 11%

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The other elements were venture capital and private equity investment in specialist clean energy companies, which fell 34% to $5.8bn, its lowest figure since 2006; and public market investment in quoted companies. The latter fell 57% to $5.1bn, the lowest since 2004, and down 80% on the peak figure of $25.6bn in 2007.

The shrinkage in public market investment in clean energy has reflected the poor performance of clean energy shares in recent years. In 2012, the WilderHill New Energy Global Innovation Index, or NEX, which tracks 95 clean energy stocks worldwide, fell a further 5.5%, while broader indices gained - the US S&P 500 index, for instance, rose 13.4% during the year. At its low point last year, on 25 July, the NEX was down 78.2% from its peak in November 2007. By 10 January 2013, the NEX had rallied 27% from that summer 2012 low.

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