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<http://www.ciol.com/ciol/features/206931/clean-energy-investment-falls>

Clean energy investment falls for second year

Investment in renewable energy and energy smart technologies dropped 11 percent in 2013, after falling 10 percent in 2012

Global investment in clean energy was \$254 billion last year, down from a revised \$286.2 billion in 2012 and the record \$317.9 billion of 2011, according to the latest authoritative figures from research company Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

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Michael Liebreich, founder and chairman of the advisory board for Bloomberg New Energy Finance, commented: "A second successive year of decline in investment will come as unwelcome news to the clean energy sector, but the top-line figures don't tell the whole story. Investment in Europe crashed, in large part because of the falling cost of solar installations, whose volume worldwide actually grew by around 20 percent to a new record. Outside Europe, the picture was mixed, with some countries increasing and others reducing investment, and Japan the clear leader in terms of growth.

"Meanwhile the public markets clearly believe that the sector's consolidation is behind it, as the NEX index soared by over 50 percent and equity raisings by quoted clean energy companies more than doubled. Investors also enthused about new areas such as electric vehicles and renewable power project funds, and indeed 2014 has started in the same vein with the spectacular acquisition of Nest by Google for \$3.2 billion."

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In 2013, the WilderHill New Energy Global Innovation Index, or NEX, which tracks the performance of 102 clean energy stocks worldwide, rose almost 54 percent, beating wider market indices such as the S&P500 and the FTSE100. In January 2014 the NEX is standing at its highest level since summer 2011.