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<http://www.businessspectator.com.au/article/2013/4/24/renewable-energy/passing-clean-energy-tipping-point>

## Passing the clean energy tipping point

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Bloomberg New Energy Finance predicts that wind and solar will take up the largest shares of new power capacity added in terms of GW by 2030, accounting for 30 per cent and 24 per cent respectively. By 2030 renewable technologies will comprise 50 per cent of new power generation capacity installed around the world, up from 28 per cent in 2012. In terms of power produced, the share of renewables will increase from 22 per cent in 2012 to 37 per cent in 2030.

This positive news contrasts with some of the suffering solar and wind manufacturers have experienced in recent years. China's decision to subsidise the factory expansions of its solar companies have helped halve the cost of panels since 2010, while the price of wind turbines has tumbled by about a quarter since 2009, according to data compiled by *Bloomberg*.

Solar companies were some of the poorest performers in the WilderHill New Energy Global Innovation Index, or NEX, last week. The index slid 3.1 per cent in the five trading days ending 19 April. The NEX's worst-performing issue was Solarworld, the Germany module manufacturer. Its price plunged 29.6 per cent after it reported on April 17 an after-tax loss of at least €520 million, equal to about half of its market capitalisation.

Still, a longer view shows the NEX is making a comeback. Its year-to-date gain is now 8 per cent, versus an improvement

of less than 1 per cent in the same period of 2012. Moreover, the Bloomberg New Energy Finance report indicates an overall boost for renewable energy, as lower equipment prices are helping developers finance more projects.

“Falling costs win,” says Michael Liebreich, chief executive of Bloomberg New Energy Finance, as renewables move closer to rivalling coal and oil.

“What it suggests is that we are beyond the tipping point towards a cleaner energy future.”

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