

**Environmental - or "green" - investing became a buzzword during 2008,** particularly as energy prices spiked and environmental issues placed on the back-burner for the 8 years of the Bush administration were finally addressed during the US Presidential campaign. As the financial crisis has grown, environmental investing may have disappeared from the media spotlight, but not from the attention of investors.

While the budgets of some environmental initiatives may be in question, the economic slowdown is also providing opportunity to invest in the green space and there are fund managers and corporations taking advantage of this. Venture capitalist Stanley Fink launched London-based Earth Capital Partners with \$250m in seed money and a goal of raising \$5bln over the next five years to invest in energy security and climate change.

Within the hedge fund space Energy Hedge Fund Center, publisher of the Green Hedge Fund directory, says that since the first green hedge fund was launched in 2004 the space has grown to over 100 and they anticipate adding several more hedge fund listings in the months ahead.

#### **A global push for climate change even in time of financial crisis**

"The creation of the green economy is an idea whose time has come," says Peter Fusaro. Fusaro, founder of Global Change Associates is also the founder of the Wall Street Green Trading Summit, which will be held in New York City on April 1st and 2nd.

This ability to look ahead and have the foresight to expect change may be a trait inherent to those focused on investing in the green space. It is perhaps then apropos that the two-day Wall Street Green Trading Summit will overlap with The United Nations Environment Program's (UNEP) April 2nd presentation to world leaders of a report that has determined one percent of global GDP (approximately \$750bln), would be enough to bankroll a "Global Green New Deal".

Achim Steiner, head of the UNEP told Reuters on Thursday there were "promising signs that economic stimulus packages by many nations, ranging from the United States to China, were being tailored to help a shift toward greener growth and away from dependence on fossil fuels." ([Source](#)).

Certain aspects of environmental investing, such as forestry - which Fusaro says will be a large part of the US climate regime, are gaining traction amongst investors. The Wall Street Green Trading Summit will include programming on forestry as well as Environmental Finance Technology Infrastructure - another growth area within that industry.