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## **NASDAQ Clean Edge Green Energy Index and Smart Grid Infrastructure Index Announce Semi-Annual Changes**

*Addition of Yieldcos to Green Energy Index (CELS) Marks Market Shift Toward Project Installations and Mainstream Deployment*

**Portland, OR, March 23, 2015** — Clean Edge, Inc. today announced the results of the semi-annual evaluation of the [NASDAQ<sup>®</sup> Clean Edge<sup>®</sup> Green Energy Index](#) (NASDAQ: CELS) and the [NASDAQ<sup>®</sup> Clean Edge<sup>®</sup> Smart Grid Infrastructure Index](#) (NASDAQ: QGRD), both of which became effective prior to today's market open.

### **NASDAQ Clean Edge Green Energy Index (CELS):**

The following five securities, including three clean-energy yieldcos, have been added to the CELS Index: Abengoa Yield (ABY); EMCORE Corporation (EMKR); NextEra Energy Partners (NEP); TerraForm Power (TERP); and Vivint Solar (VSLR).

"Over the past few semi-annual index evaluations, we've been adding a growing number of clean-energy yieldcos/REITs to the Green Energy Index," explains Ron Pernick, founder and managing director, Clean Edge, Inc. "CELS now contains five yieldcos/REITs which are investing in clean-energy deployment and offering project-related yields. As the clean-energy industry increasingly expands from technology development to mainstream deployment, we believe the inclusion of qualifying yieldcos and REITs enables our index to better reflect today's dynamic marketplace."

### **Yieldcos/REITs in NASDAQ Clean Edge Green Energy Index (CELS)**

<b>Company</b>	<b>Ticker</b>	<b>Type</b>
Abengoa Yield	ABY	Yieldco
Hannon Armstrong	HASI	REIT
NextEra Energy Partners	NEP	Yieldco
Pattern Energy	PEGI	Yieldco
TerraForm Power	TERP	Yieldco

The NASDAQ Clean Edge Green Energy Index is designed to track the performance of clean-energy companies that are publicly traded in the U.S. The Index includes companies engaged in the manufacturing, development, distribution, and installation of emerging clean-energy technologies such as wind turbines, solar photovoltaics, and advanced batteries. The five major sub-sectors that the index covers are Renewable Electricity Generation; Renewable Fuels; Energy Storage & Conversion; Energy Intelligence; and Advanced Energy-Related Materials. The securities must also meet other eligibility criteria which include minimum requirements for market value, average daily share volume, and price. The NASDAQ<sup>®</sup> Clean Edge<sup>®</sup> Green Energy Index is re-ranked semi-annually in March and September.

The Index is the basis for the [First Trust NASDAQ Clean Edge Green Energy Index Fund](#) (NASDAQ: QCLN), which seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield of the NASDAQ Clean Edge Green Energy Index before fees and expenses.

As a result of the evaluation, the following six securities have been removed from the Index: Ameresco, Inc.; Capstone Turbine Corporation; ESCO Technologies Inc.; Hydrogenics Corporation; Rubicon Technology, Inc.; Revolution Lighting Technologies, Inc.; and Renesola Ltd.

**NASDAQ Clean Edge Smart Grid Infrastructure Index (QGRD):**

No securities were added to the Index for this semi-evaluation.

The Index is designed to act as a transparent and liquid benchmark for the smart grid and electric infrastructure sector. The Index includes companies that are primarily engaged and involved in electric grid; electric meters, devices, and networks; energy storage and management; and enabling software used by the smart grid and electric infrastructure sector. The securities must also meet other eligibility criteria which include minimum requirements for market capitalization and average daily dollar trading volume. The NASDAQ OMX Clean Edge Smart Grid Infrastructure Index is evaluated semi-annually in March and September.

[The First Trust NASDAQ<sup>®</sup> Clean Edge<sup>®</sup> Smart Grid Infrastructure Index Fund](#) (NASDAQ: GRID), is an exchange traded fund that seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield, before the Fund's fees and expenses, of the NASDAQ OMX<sup>®</sup> Clean Edge<sup>®</sup> Smart Grid Infrastructure Index.

As a result of the evaluation, one security has been removed from the Index: American Superconductor (AMSC).

For more information about the NASDAQ Clean Edge Green Energy Index and the NASDAQ OMX Clean Edge Smart Grid Infrastructure Index, including detailed eligibility criteria, visit <https://indexes.nasdaqomx.com/>.

**About Clean Edge, Inc.**

Clean Edge, Inc., founded in 2000, is the world's first research and advisory firm devoted to the clean- tech sector. The firm delivers an unparalleled suite of clean-energy benchmarking services including stock indexes, utility and consumer surveys, and state and metro leadership tracking, providing companies, investors, NGOs, and governments with timely research, trending analysis, and actionable insights. Managing director Ron Pernick and senior editor Clint Wilder are coauthors of the widely acclaimed business books *The Clean Tech Revolution* (HarperCollins, 2007) and *Clean Tech Nation* (HarperCollins, 2012). To keep abreast of the latest clean-tech trends, or for more information on the company, visit [www.cleantech.com](http://www.cleantech.com) or follow us on Twitter @CleanEdgeInc

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