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## **CLEAN EDGE MARKS 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CELS, ITS FIRST CLEAN-TECH-THEMED STOCK INDEX**

**Portland, OR, May 18, 2026** — Clean Edge, Inc. today marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of the company’s first thematic equity index with Nasdaq Global Indexes. The [Nasdaq Clean Edge Green Energy™ Index](#) (CELS™) went live on May 18, 2006, helping establish one of the earliest public-market benchmarks for the emerging clean-energy sector.

Since the launch of CELS, Nasdaq Global Indexes and Clean Edge have expanded their collaboration to include a broader suite of thematic indexes tied to clean energy, transportation, water, and the grid. In 2009, the two firms launched their second thematic benchmark, the [Nasdaq OMX Clean Edge Smart Grid Infrastructure™ Index](#) (QGRD™), designed to serve as a transparent and liquid benchmark for the smart grid and electric infrastructure sector. Today they co-produce eight indexes that serve as the basis for more than a dozen licensed financial products traded in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Asia, and Israel. Financial products tracking Nasdaq Clean Edge thematic indexes represented more than \$15 billion in assets under management as of May 11, 2026.

“CELS debuted at a time when clean technologies were just beginning to gain broader traction with investors and industry leaders,” said Clean Edge co-founder and managing director Ron Pernick. “Over the past two decades, clean-tech infrastructure has expanded dramatically across innovation-driven sectors ranging from solar and wind to energy storage, transportation, and

grid modernization. Today, we continue to track the trends and companies at the forefront of the clean-tech transition.”

CELS is a modified market capitalization-weighted index that tracks U.S.-listed pure play companies across the clean-energy landscape, including renewables such as solar and wind; energy intelligence technologies such as smart meters, LEDs, power controls, and efficiency solutions; energy storage and conversion technologies such as lithium-ion batteries, electric vehicles, and fuel cells; and advanced materials including lithium, silicon, and bio-based enabling materials. The Index is the basis for the [First Trust Nasdaq® Clean Edge® Green Energy Index Fund](#) (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.

#### **About Clean Edge, Inc.**

Clean Edge, Inc. develops and publishes thematic research on clean energy, transportation, water, and the grid. Founded more than 25 years ago, the firm was the first analyst company to promote the concept of “clean tech” to a business audience. Clean Edge is a joint developer of and contributor to a suite of Nasdaq Clean Edge indexes, including the Nasdaq Clean Edge Green Energy Index (CELS) and the Nasdaq OMX Clean Edge Smart Grid Infrastructure Index (QGRD), launched in 2006 and 2009, respectively. Other indexes include the ISE Clean Edge Global Wind Energy™ Index (GWE™), the ISE Clean Edge Water™ Index (HHO™), and the Nasdaq Clean Edge Global Water™ Index (GHHO™). Financial products tracking Nasdaq Clean Edge indexes equaled more than \$15 billion in assets under management as of May 11, 2026. To learn more about the company and stay up to date on clean-tech trends, visit [www.cleandedge.com](http://www.cleandedge.com).

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