

Excerpt from Greentech Media, January 14, 2013

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/2012-global-clean-energy-investment-falls-to-268b>

2012 Global Clean Energy Investment Falls to \$268B

China grew, the U.S. shrank, and VC fell off a cliff last year.

Global clean energy investment fell 11 percent to \$268.7 billion in 2012, marked by a big drop-off in venture capital investment, but booming solar and wind installations were seen in countries like South Africa, Japan and most importantly, number-one spender China.

That's the mixed bag of news from Bloomberg New Energy Finance's 2012 clean energy investment report released Monday. While last year's investment was down compared to 2011's \$302.3 billion, it's still the second-highest year on record.

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Asset finance of utility-scale renewable energy projects like wind farms, solar parks and biofuel plants, fell to \$148.6 billion from 2011's \$180 billion. But small-scale projects grew to \$80.2 billion, up from \$76.5 billion in 2011, driven by rooftop solar investment.

Corporate and government research and development stood at \$30.2 billion in 2012, flat from last year. But 2012 green venture capital investment fell 34 percent to \$5.8 billion, the lowest it's been since 2006, according to BNEF's figures.

Even more notable, public investment in clean energy companies fell 57 percent to \$5.1 billion, according to BNEF. That's down 80 percent from 2007's peak figure of \$25.6 billion, and the lowest figure tracked by the WilderHill New Energy Global Innovation Index (NEX) since 2004. SolarCity saw a successful IPO in December, but most of the companies that went public last year haven't done so well, with bankrupt battery maker A123 being the most recent example.