

# Over the Next 5 Years Global Coal Demand to Increase at an Average of 2.6% a Year

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## The Paragon Report Provides Stock Research on Alpha Natural Resources and Peabody Energy

NEW YORK, NY -- (Marketwire) -- 01/10/13 -- After a dismal 2012, the Coal Industry looks to be on the upswing as a recent report from the International Energy Agency predicts global coal demand over the next five years to grow at an average of 2.6 percent a year. The Market Vectors-Coal ETF (KOL) has gained nearly 7 percent over the last month. The Paragon Report examines investing opportunities in the Coal Industry and provides equity research on [Alpha Natural Resources, Inc.](#) (NYSE: ANR) and [Peabody Energy Corporation](#) (NYSE: BTU).

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According to the IEA's Medium-Term Coal Market Report by 2017 coal is expected rival oil as the world's top energy source. Coal's global growth is largely dependent on Chinese demand, as China has surpassed Japan as the world's largest importer of coal.

"This report sees that trend continuing. In fact, the world will burn around 1.2 billion more tons of coal per year by 2017 compared to today - equivalent to the current coal consumption of Russia and the United States combined. Coal's share of the global energy mix continues to grow each year, and if no changes are made to current policies, coal will catch oil within a decade," said IEA executive director Maria van der Hoeven.

Paragon Report releases regular market updates on the Coal Industry so investors can stay ahead of the crowd and make the best investment decisions to maximize their returns. Take a few minutes to register with us free at [www.ParagonReport.com](http://www.ParagonReport.com) and get exclusive access to our numerous stock reports and industry newsletters.

Alpha is the nation's largest supplier of metallurgical coal used in the steel-making process and is a major supplier of thermal coal to electric utilities and manufacturing industries. With \$7.1 billion in total revenue in 2011, Alpha Natural Resources ranks as America's third-largest coal producer by revenue and third-largest by production. Shares of the company have rallied nearly 20 percent in the past month.

Peabody Energy is the world's largest private-sector coal company and a global leader in sustainable mining and clean coal solutions. "While the first quarter is challenged due to a combination of factors, we expect quarter-over-quarter improvement throughout the remainder of the year. We also expect to begin realizing the benefits of owner-operator conversion in the second quarter." Chairman and CEO Gregory H. Boyce said in a recent release.

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