

BENEFITS OF SOLAR PANELS

Teacher-led Activity

This activity encourages questioning around the photovoltaic (PV) data collected at the schools that have had solar panels installed through the Schoolgen programme.

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WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

Write a persuasive argument in support of solar panels being installed in schools. Use the PV data to support your argument.

- Is the installation of solar panels the best way to generate electricity?

- What are the positive effects of installing solar panels?

- What might be better? What are the alternatives?

- Should the government subsidise the installation of solar panels for all houses in New Zealand?

EXTENSION

Genesis Energy has installed solar panels on the roof of selected schools in New Zealand so they can generate electricity from the power of the sun.

Find the energy output for a given month for a Schoolgen school's solar panels - if need be pretend this is your school:

(_____ kW.h).

Find the total electrical energy used by your school in the same month:

(_____ kW.h).

What fraction of your school's total power bill is the electricity generated by the solar panels for that month?

Share the environmental register issue with your school. Record and display the results on a display area in your school.
