

Genesis Energy presents Schoolgen – a programme bringing solar energy to life in schools

THERE'S A LOT OF TALK ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE THESE DAYS. BUT WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN? AND WHAT IS GENESIS ENERGY REALLY DOING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Schoolgen is a programme developed by Genesis Energy (one of New Zealand's largest energy retailers and electricity generators) to bring solar energy to life for children across New Zealand. We want to bring solar energy to life in a fun, exciting way (at no cost to schools) because young people are our future leaders and decision-makers.

By talking and interacting with them we have a real chance to cultivate environmentally aware thinking and behaviour; not just theirs, but that of the people around them – their teachers, parents, parents' colleagues, friends... the whole community!



What is Schoolgen?

Schoolgen has three elements that can work together or independently of each other:

- A 2-kilowatt (kW) photovoltaic system (solar panels) installed on the roof of selected schools at absolutely **no cost** to the school;
- Real-time generation data from the panels that is linked directly to Schoolgen's website, accompanied by **freely available teaching resources that have been designed to link with the new New Zealand Curriculum**;

- Support for schools who take part in the programme from a full-time Environmental Educator who is dedicated to explaining Schoolgen and how its various elements can best work for individual schools.

A school selected to have solar panels installed has Genesis Energy take care of everything – building consents, installation and the set up of the panels.

A selection process establishes the eligibility of primary and secondary schools that have applied to become

a Schoolgen school. The prerequisites for being selected to join Schoolgen are that the school must be a customer of Genesis Energy, be able to demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and the application must have the support of the school's senior management team, and Board of Trustees.

Once the 2-kilowatt PV system has been installed, the school will be generating a portion of the electricity it uses from the cleanest source of energy available – the sun.

The website – www.schoolgen.co.nz

An integral part of Schoolgen, the website displays data about how much electricity the schools are generating on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly basis. The data is displayed in real-time on the website where visitors can compare the

generation data of all the schools taking part in the programme.

The website is where Schoolgen really comes to life for students – they can see information about their own school online and become part of the

Schoolgen community. The generation data on the website is accompanied by teaching resources that have been developed to fit with the recently released New Zealand Curriculum.

Students at Bayswater Primary on Auckland's North Shore celebrate the launch of Schoolgen at their school.



Teaching resources

The teaching resources are freely available to any school in New Zealand – **schools do not have to have solar panels on the roof or be a Genesis Energy customer to experience other benefits of Schoolgen.**

Teaching resources vary in levels and subject matter, and cover a wide range of learning areas including social sciences, science (environmental education), English, mathematics with statistics, technology and physics.

Get involved

We have some ambitious goals... and we want you to come with us on the journey to achieving them.

We've got funding for Schoolgen to bring solar panels to 56 schools across New Zealand by 2010, and we are supported by the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund. We want every school in New Zealand (including those who do not have the solar panels installed) to know Schoolgen exists and to be using the teaching resources to support children's learning about renewable energy, climate change and electricity generation. Applications to have panels installed are called for from schools on a regional basis every few months. Notices are posted on www.schoolgen.co.nz and letters are sent to all schools in the selected region.

Being proactive is easy

If a school wants to be considered to have the 2kW solar panels installed on their roof through Schoolgen, expressions of interest are warmly welcomed and can be made as follows:

- The 'Contact Us' page on the website www.schoolgen.co.nz
- Email info@schoolgen.co.nz
- Telephone Maggie Twaddle Environmental Educator 09 580 2094
- Write to the Schoolgen Coordinator PO Box 17188, Greenlane Auckland

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