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Panels spark conservation ideals

By SHABNAM DASTGHEIB

Plateau School's solar panels are generating more than just energy for the school – as pupils are learning more about conservation and the environment.

The solar panels were installed last year under Genesis Energy's Schoolgen programme which brings solar energy to selected schools.

Nine schools in the Wellington region have installed the panels under the programme.

Plateau School is the only school in Upper Hutt to have been chosen.

Assistant principal and co-leader of the school's envirogroup Marilyn Armstrong said the school was chosen mainly because of its enthusiasm for being environmentally friendly.

"The children are learning a lot

about protecting the environment.

"We keep reminding them that the solar panels are there and how important they are.

"The children can also learn about statistics and conserving energy."

Jonathan Bishton, 10, said it was important to look after the environment.

"If you don't look after it and pollute the air, new trees won't grow and we won't have enough oxygen to live."

Nine-year-old Eleanor Cox said it was exciting to have the solar panels and she was proud of her school.

"We want to have a nice environment.

"If we don't do things like this we will be living in a dump."



Growing up green: Pupils at Plateau School are proud of being an enviro-school. Front, from left, Roselyn Chesterman, Eleanor Cox, Briana Ashton Lyttle, back, from left, Lilly Baxter, Jonathon Bishton, Nicola Donaldson.
Photo: SHABNAM DAST