

Letting the sun shine savings for Hawthorn school

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From left, Student Environment Leaders, Odette and Philippa, with Principal Glen Miller and solar panel installer Euan Angus. Picture: Richard Serong *Source: News Limited*

HAWTHORN'S Erasmus school is leading the way in solar technology, showing off its 70 new solar panels.

The new panels, which have been installed on the school's roof, will generate 20.3kw of power on top of the 6kw the school already produces.

Principal Glen Miller said the bulk of the annual solar electricity would be consumed directly on site.

"The annual electricity savings will be a 35 per cent saving," Mr Miller said.

"The system cost \$50,000 to install and this was made available to the school on loan by a benefactor.

"Erasmus plans to pay off the loan over eight years."

Mr Miller said [Erasmus](#) was an excellent case study to show that rooftop solar presents enormous benefits.

"Like Erasmus, most schools have unique characteristics which lend themselves to taking advantage of solar power generation," he said.

"Schools usually have large roof areas not subject to shading.

"Peak electricity months are over winter and therefore the solar panels can be tilted at 30 degrees to bias the system to produce more power during that period and schools use more power during the day compared to night.

"Therefore solar energy is a perfect match."