



Shawna's a champion recycler

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Shawna Perrett-Dodd lives for green.

The 11-year-old Manukorihi student has been given the first Green Champion award by Shell Todd Oil Services (STOS) as part of its Paper 4 Trees programme.

The gong is designed to reward those showing a real commitment

to the environment, which Shawna has done by encouraging her peers to recycle, and helping with the school's new propagation unit.

Also the minister of environment for her class, Shawna was ecstatic with the recognition.

"It's pretty awesome. I love everything to do with the

environment," she said.

STOS kick-started the Paper 4

Trees programme in 2008, and 96 Taranaki schools are now involved in the environmental education programme.

Run by the Environmental Education for Resource Sustainability Trust, the programme encourages schools and preschools to reduce the amount of waste they send to landfill.

For every two cubic metres of paper and cardboard recycled,

they receive one native plant.

Between 2008 and 2011 Taranaki schools have recycled more than 1000 tonnes of paper and cardboard, saving more than 8000

cubic metres of landfill space at Colson Rd.

In doing so they have earned more than 4000 trees.

Manukorihi had received about 30 trees since 2010.

Steve McKean recently came on board to assist with the initiative,

and said it had been a real eye opener.

"I didn't realise how huge this programme was. The schools certainly buy into it.

"STOS has been a part of my life always, with sport and schools, so when they asked me to get involved with this I jumped. It's pretty special and I've never really been that into recycling and so on, but even we're recycling at home now."





Green machine: Manukorihi Intermediate's Shawna Perrett-Dodd, 11, holds a pohutukawa tree after being named a Green Champion in Shell's Paper 4 Trees programme.
Photo: ROBERT CHARLES/FAIRFAX NZ