

Group installs solar panels

By Emily Sobey

THE first solar panels as part of a community energy scheme were rolled out in Ballarat yesterday.

The Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions Group has received more than 300 photovoltaic solar panels as part of their scheme.

Yesterday they began roof installations on 40 of their members' homes, with member and Committee for Ballarat chairman Professor David James the first off the rank.

More solar panels will later be delivered for the scheme, with another 120 members' homes to be fitted with the panels.

And the number will increase, with a recent surge in interest following a re-launch of the scheme.

BREAZE president Nick Lanyon said when people in Ballarat took action on climate change, they often looked to control the emissions generated by their own home.

"Solar PV panels that produce electricity from sunshine are such a common sense way of doing this," he said.

"We are delighted to

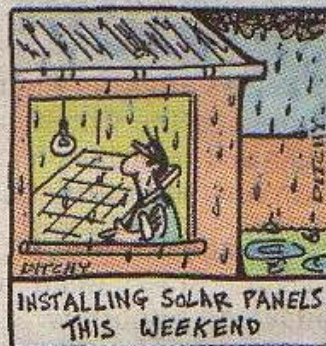


GREEN POWER: Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions member and Committee for Ballarat chairman Professor David James, left, and BREAZE president Nick Lanyon inspect the newly installed solar panels yesterday. Picture: **Jeremy Bannister**

see so many BREAZE members translating their environmental thoughts into environmental actions," he said.

Mr Lanyon said an earlier commercial solar panel scheme led by the group this year saw solar panels installed in 70 homes.

"People (who) in-



stalled months ago are still smiling," he said.

But the scheme has

not run smoothly all the way along, with issues including the Federal Government's means-testing of the solar panel rebate and the falling Australian dollar.

But Mr Lanyon said BREAZE members were focused on their home's emissions and committed to practical solutions.