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Rapping up a storm for the environment

TWO school rap groups were hip hopping happy when star Che Fu turned up in person to tell them they won a national song-writing contest aimed at helping the environment.

The Storm, a quartet of nine-to-11-year-old boys from Fitzroy School in New Plymouth, won the North Island section of the Glass Packaging Forum's Glass Rap competition.

Wireless, four 12-year-old boys from Fairfield School in Dunedin, won the South Island section.

The competition encourages young people to recycle more glass as part of a World Environment Day initiative.

Che told the pupils their songs combined educational research with passion for keeping their community green.

"The Storm and Wireless rap groups showed in their lyrics that they had researched glass recycling in depth," he said.

"They fulfilled all the criteria and it was clear that they had made a huge effort to produce rap of an extremely high standard.

"We listened to more than 60 entries and these two stuck out like a country mile. I am looking forward to spending a day in the recording studios with these outstanding young people."

Both groups will join Che at an Auckland recording studio later this month to record their own lyrics along with Che Fu's chorus into a single rap song.

They will then be presented with their own CDs by Che and Minister for the Environment Trevor Mallard at a ceremony in Wellington on July 1.