

# COPYRIGHT AND LICENSING

## PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION BEFORE PLANNING YOUR PERFORMANCE

Under the Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act (1988), it is a legal requirement for schools to comply with copyright law, and ensure they hold the correct licences for performing musicals. As experienced teachers ourselves, we understand that time restraints and lack of advice can sometimes mean this aspect of your production is not dealt with, or that the details and requirements are not fully understood. We therefore try to make the process of licensing your performances as simple as possible.

### General Guidelines

You are free to use any of our material for all classroom teaching purposes and for performances within school to only pupils and staff. However, if our musicals are to be performed to an audience other than pupils and staff from your school (eg. parents or other people from the wider community) then a performance licence must be obtained directly from Edgy Productions.

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### Performance of Musicals

The performance of works involving drama, movement, narrative or spoken dialogue requires a title and date specific licence from the copyright holder/publisher – in this case Edgy Productions. The requirement for a licence is irrespective of admission charges. **Your PRS, PPL, CCLA or any equivalent local authority-issued licences do not cover you for such performances.**

A performance licence from us will permit the holder to do the following:

- Perform a musical up to 5 times in one academic year, to a public audience, within your school.\*
- Reproduce song lyrics on paper or for display on interactive whiteboards or similar screens.
- Photocopy the script and score for the cast to learn lines, and musicians to play the songs.

\* **If you are performing outside of your school premises, for example in a local theatre, please contact us as further conditions apply. For more information, visit [www.edgyproductions.com/licences](http://www.edgyproductions.com/licences)**

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### Audio and Video Recordings

If you wish to make an audio or video recording of the performance of any of our musicals, you will need an additional **recording and duplication licence** from Edgy Productions. This will also allow you to make and sell copies of your recordings if you wish to do so. We no longer request that you pay a commission to us on the money you raise from the sale of recordings.

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### File Sharing

You are not permitted to share any of our copyrighted material, either in printed form, on disc or in digital file format, with anyone who is not a pupil or teacher within your school or organisation. We will take immediate action should an incident of illegal file-sharing be reported or discovered.

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You can, of course, phone or email us for advice – we are more than happy to discuss all your licensing needs.

# PERFORMANCE LICENCE APPLICATION FORM

For any performance of any part of ‘A Big Green Adventure’ to an audience other than staff and children (eg. to parents), a valid performance licence from Edgy Productions must be held. Please note, your PRS, MCPS, CCLI or similar local authority-issued licence does not cover you for this.

**Unless you purchased an instant performance licence and/or a recording & duplication licence when you bought this production pack, please ensure you complete and return this form at least 28 days before your first performance:**

- by post – Edgy Productions, 8 Roman Way, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7PQ
- by FAX – 0845 833 33 49
- by email – [info@edgyproductions.com](mailto:info@edgyproductions.com)

**The performance licence will permit the holder to do the following:**

- Perform a musical up to 5 times in one academic year, to a public audience, within your school.\*
- Reproduce song lyrics on paper or for display on interactive whiteboards or similar screens.
- Photocopy the script and score for the cast to learn lines, and musicians to play the songs.

**Contact name:** .....

**Name of school / organisation:** .....

**Address:** .....

..... **Postcode:** .....

**Tel:** ..... **email:** .....

**Number of performances:** ..... **Performances Dates: from** ..... **to** .....

By ticking, select one of the performance licence options below:

**Standard Performance Licence** ☐ **£36.00** (including VAT)  
(no admission charged and no tickets sold)

**or**

**Performance Licence with charges** ☐ **£42.00** (including VAT)  
(admission is charged and/or tickets are sold)

☐ \* Tick if you are performing outside your school premises, for example in a local theatre, as further conditions apply – see [www.edgyproductions.com/licences](http://www.edgyproductions.com/licences)

If you are recording any performance, and/or selling copies of the recording, you will **also** need a recording and duplication licence.

**Recording and Duplication Licence** ☐ **£36.00** (including VAT)

By ticking, select one of the payment options below:

☐ **I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Edgy Productions Ltd**

☐ **Please send me an invoice for £.....** (payment terms 30 days)

**Writers rely on payments from public performances for their livelihoods.  
Please ensure they receive their dues.**

# PLOT SUMMARY

Our story begins with a meeting of the forest’s animal elders, presided over by chief elder, Snowy. The untrustworthy and sneaky Weezil brings news that the humans have plans to ‘develop’ the forest, and suggests that giving their blessing to such a development would bring the forest residents a wonderful, new, hi-tech standard of living **(song – What Kind Of World?)**. The elders vote on whether or not to welcome the humans, but with the vote tied, it rests with Snowy to decide their fate. Snowy consults the forest goddess, Natura, and is told to take a journey of discovery to the city, before making a decision, to find out more about human behaviour. Leaving the future of the forest in the balance, Snowy, and fellow elder and friend Chip, embark on their adventure.

As they set off, they experience first-hand the plight of the forest’s trees **(song – It Doesn’t Pay To Be A Tree)** and learn how humans’ actions have had a devastating effect. But they also learn how human behaviour can change to reverse this effect. Next, having been told to ‘follow their noses’, the pair stumble upon the quite revolting yet comical rats, Itchy and Scabs, who inhabit the landfill site **(song – Welcome To Our Paradise)**. They witness the waste created by humans and how this provides a ‘paradise’ for the roguish rodents!

Next it’s on to the supermarket, where Snowy and Chip meet some rather jet-lagged food items, who explain the environmental impact of their being flown thousands of miles just to satisfy human tastes for exotic and un-seasonal produce. **(song – What’s The Deal?)** Having learned what can and should be done to improve this situation, Snowy and Chip then encounter rush hour in the city! **(song – Driving Song)** They meet a very pushy car salesman, only to be rescued by the brilliant Professor Plantpot who, along with some ‘green’ friends, explains that many humans do care about the planet and are changing their behaviour accordingly.

Snowy and Chip learn how, with a little thought and effort, humans can reduce global warming, save energy and create less waste. **(song – Switch It Off)** The professor also demonstrates the limitless possibilities that recycling provides **(song – R.E.C.Y.C.L.E.)**, unveiling Robbie, a robot made entirely from junk!

With their new friends in tow, Snowy and Chip are in a race against time to get back to the forest, which has now fallen under the control of Weezil! Will the humans and their bulldozers be welcomed with open arms? Will forest life ever be the same again? That remains to be seen, but one thing is for sure, with the final song **(Make A Change Today)** still ringing in their ears, your audience will feel uplifted, inspired, informed, and above all....thoroughly entertained!

# CHARACTERS

If you have too few actors to fill all the roles below, or indeed if you'd like to create more parts for a larger number of children, **see page 26** for our suggestions on reducing and increasing the cast size.

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## **37 speaking parts** *(in order of appearance)*

**Moira & Trevor** - *readers of the Forest News bulletins.*

**8 Forest Elders** - *council of animals – guardians of the forest.*

**Snowy** - *chief elder.*

**Chip** - *senior elder and friend of Snowy.*

**Weezil** - *sneaky elder who would sell Grandma for a snazzy hat!*

**Natura** - *queen of the forest spirits.*

**4 Trees** - *thirsty and thoroughly fed-up.*

**Itchy & Scabs** - *ratty inhabitants of the landfill site.*

**Tin of Corned Beef, Leg of Lamb, Apple, Pineapple and Potato** - *jet-lagged occupants of the supermarket shelf.*

**Checkout Girl** - *keeping a watchful eye.*

**Car Salesman** - *won't take no for an answer.*

**Professor Plantpot** - *scientist, environmentalist and inventor.*

**5 Green Activists** - *behind him all the way.*

**Robbie Robot** - *recycled and ready for anything.*

**3 Construction Workers** - *hard hats and hard hearts.*

## **Ensemble Characters**

**More Trees**

**The Rat Chorus**

**The Food Chorus**

**Drivers**

**For a  
costume  
suggestions  
see p25**



# Scene 1

*(Intro music plays (track 9) as the cast members take their places. On a small stage to one side, newsreaders Trevor and Moira sit at a desk with clipboards. They wear horns or animal ears and face-paint to represent their animal characteristics, but formal suits to show they are newsreaders. In a semi-circle on the main stage sit animal Elders 1, 2, 3 and 4, Chip, and chief-elder Snowy on a throne or elevated platform. They too are made-up to look like animals, but wear togas. A statue of a goddess stands to one side. The news theme tune plays - track 10)*

**Trevor** This is the Forest News. Our main story today is that the animal elders are meeting to discuss forest policies. Items on the agenda include the need for affordable housing for the growing population of rabbits. Also, there's panic amongst squirrels, as the share price of nuts plummets to an all-time low! How's the weather looking, Moira?

**Moira** Well, Trevor, it's great news for ducks, with floods on their way! Strangely, though, many other areas are suffering from droughts, as climate patterns continue to baffle experts. But now we'll go straight over to the forest and show you the action at this week's meeting of the elders.

**Elder 1** *(standing)* So, that's decided. The bears will be sent a stern letter requesting that they 'do their business' in the woods, and not around the bathing pond. Now, are there any other matters to discuss?

*(Elders 5, 6, 7, 8 and Weezil enter with arrogant swaggers.)*

**Chip** Ah Weezil, it's so good you and the other elders managed to make it.

**Weezil** Thanks, Chip. Sorry we're late, but we were chatting to some humans.

**Elder 2** Humans! Are you crazy?

**Elder 5** Lovely chaps. They've been telling us all about their marvellous idea to expand their city.....into this forest.

**Elder 3** An expansion plan! But that's impossible! They can't!

**Elder 6** But you didn't hear what they had to say. They were very persuasive.

**Weezil** My fellow elders, this is a fantastic opportunity for us to team up with the humans. Just think, we could have central heating, motorized vehicles.....

**Elder 7** High-definition TV, computer games, fast food restaurants.....

**Elder 4** But at what cost? Humans are greedy, wasteful.....and dangerous!

**Weezil** Are you sure we can't convince you...?

## Song What Kind Of World?

*Track 1 - vocal demo  
Track 11 - backing track  
Lyrics p17*

*(Snowy is deep in thought as the song finishes)*

**Weezil** So, should we allow the humans to expand their city into our forest?

*(All the elders shout their opinions.)*

**Snowy** Silence! This must be decided in the traditional way – one elder, one vote. Those in favour of allowing the humans to come? *(Weezil and Elders 5-8 raise their hands)* And all those against? *(Chip and Elders 1-4 raise their hands)* It is a tied vote – five in favour, five against.

**Weezil** Then it rests with you, Snowy. As chief elder you have the casting vote. Only you can decide A Leaflet our future.

**Elder 2** Please Snowy, see sense! Don’t be swayed by promises made by....

**Snowy** Silence! I shall let Natura, queen of the forest spirits, decide!

*(Snowy approaches the statue and kneels. He whispers some words)*

**Elder 8** *(sarcastically)* Well, oh wise chief? Did she say anything?

**Snowy** Natura will need time. I shall stay here and await her decision. Leave me, all of you, and return at sunrise.

*(Everyone exits. The lights fade and Snowy falls asleep at the foot of the statue. An owl hoots (track12), then we hear the voice of Natura (track 13 or spoken by an actor). As she speaks Snowy wakes up and listens in awe.)*

**Natura** Snowy, Snowy. This is Natura, queen of the forest spirits. You are troubled, I can tell. You have an important decision to make and you want to be sure you make the right one. But I cannot give you the answer. You must find it for yourself. Travel to the city, learn from what you see, then decide what is best for the forest and all who live here. But be careful! You are not familiar with the ways of humans. Take a loyal friend with you, for comfort and to help bear the burden – you will surely need it. Good luck, Snowy.

*(The lights come up and Weezil, Chip and the elders enter.)*

**Snowy** Natura has spoken. I must venture to the city to find answers.

**Elder 7** But the council needs to make a decision. The humans are waiting.

**Snowy** Then they must wait a little longer until I return. I am to take one of you with me and I have decided it will be you, Chip. We leave immediately.

**Weezil** *(aside)* Ha! With those two out of the way I can set to work ‘persuading’ the others to see my point of view. Mmm, I can almost taste that.... what did the humans call it....that quarter-pounder with cheese!

*(All exit as intro music plays (track 14). The stage is set for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*



## Scene 2

*(The Trees enter and stand stationary. The news theme tune plays - track 15)*

**Moira** Hello. Here’s the breaking news. Elders Snowy and Chip have embarked on a cultural, fact-finding visit to the city! The general feeling amongst the forest population is that, to quote one duck, “They’re quackers!”

**Trevor** Other news now, and figures just out from The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization show that the annual rate of global deforestation is about 1.3 million square km per decade! *(note 1 – see page 27)*

**Moira** That’s a staggering statistic, Trevor. And with carbon levels rising, the protection of the world’s forests has never been more critical.

**Trevor** Got to stop you there Moira! I think we have some action in *our* forest!

*(Snowy and Chip enter carrying Dick Whittington-style bundles on sticks.)*

**Tree 1** Water! We need water! We’re so thirsty! It hasn’t rained for days!

**Chip** *(taking a small flask from bundle)* Oh dear! I’m afraid we can’t really help. This is all we have. But don’t worry, we hear that flooding is on its way!

**Tree 2** Well that won’t help. The river banks and top-soils will be eroded, and then our roots will be exposed. We’ll become unstable and probably fall down!

**Tree 3** Talking of which, I hear there have been humans in these parts recently, nosing around. That usually means a few more of us are for the chop!

**Tree 4** A few?! We’re disappearing at a rate of three of those humans’ football pitches every minute! *(note 2)* And those pitches aren’t small!

**Tree 3** You’d think they would be doing everything in their power to make sure we were happy. You know, given the enormously important jobs we do.

**Tree 2** Yes! We provide homes and food for countless creatures. And, of course, we absorb that poisonous carbon-dioxide humans make so much of.

**Tree 1** And then produce oxygen for them to breathe. Did you know, eight of us produce the amount of oxygen that one human breathes in a year *(note 3)* I think it’s high time we were given a little respect, don’t you?

## Song It Doesn’t Pay To Be A Tree

*Track 2 - vocal demo  
Track 16 - backing track  
Lyrics p18*

**Chip** So what should humans be doing to help?

**Tree 4** They could get involved with planting trees and support organisations that campaign against deforestation.

**Tree 3** Avoid using paper unnecessarily, like printing off emails, and make an effort to recycle their old newspapers and junk-mail.

**Snowy** Well that’s given us a lot to think about. But we really must be going. Perhaps you could tell us how to get to the city?

**Tree 1** That way. Go to the edge of the forest....then just follow your nose!

*(To intro music (track 17) all exit. The stage is made ready for the next scene.)*



## Scene 3

*(The stage is strewn with all types of rubbish. A sign reading ‘Landfill’ stands centre stage. The news theme tune plays - track 18)*

**Moira** In today’s news, annual global waste stands at 2 billion metric tons and is set to increase to 3.4 billion tons by 2050. Only 13.5% of this waste is recycled, with the rest being burned or dumped in landfill! *(note 4)*

**Trevor** Thanks Moira, and more news just in of Snowy and Chip’s cultural visit to the city, where today they are, in fact, visiting one of these landfill sites and talking to the inhabitants about living conditions.....

*(Two rats enter and sit on a tatty deck chair each, scratching themselves. Their conversation is littered with belching and phlegm-clearing coughs.)*

**Scabs** You know, Itchy, as long as humans keep dumping their rubbish, this place will just get bigger and we can live here in luxury!

**Itchy** That’s right, Scabs. Mmmm, filth and squalor – just the way I like it!

*(Snowy and Chip enter, holding their noses! The rats spot them.)*

**Scabs** Itchy, check these guys! They’re not from round here. Hey! You lost?

**Snowy** I think we must be. We’re trying to get to the city.

**Chip** We were told to follow our noses.....and we ended up here! Phew!

**Itchy** I know! Isn’t it great! A huge, pongy paradise, full of treats! Somewhere to relax in this rat-eat-rat world! C’mon guys, let’s welcome our visitors.

*(As the intro to the next song plays, they are joined by a chorus of rats.)*

## Song Welcome To Our Paradise

**Track 3 - vocal demo**  
**Track 19 - backing track**  
**Lyrics p19**

**Scabs** We’ve got it so good here. We’ve every food imaginable, and most of it really...how can I put it...*(slurping and licking lips)* really well-matured!

**Itchy** That’s right, Scabs. And there’s the ‘toys’ – y’know, the old TV sets, fridges, bikes, tins, plastic bottles...so much to play with!



- Scabs** And we’re never short of things to read, not with the thousands of newspapers and magazines that are delivered every day. Each of us is a very well-read rat! Not one of us is illiterate. Ha! Get it....‘illiter-*rat*’!
- Snowy** Yes, very funny. But where does all this....this mess come from?
- Itchy** Humans! They buy much more than they need, in particular food. They throw out what they don’t use and it gets sent here. Then they buy more!
- Scabs** And the containers the food comes in, plus loads of unwanted junk, all add to our growing ‘pile of pleasure!’ Which reminds me - our mate, Fleabite, has taken delivery of some freshly-soiled nappies! Let’s check them out?
- Chip** Errr...I think we’ll pass, thanks! We need to get to the city.
- Itchy** Well, nice meeting you guys. Right, come on ratties, it’s Pampers time!

*(To **intro music (track 20)** all exit. The stage is made ready for the next scene.)*



## Scene 4

*(In the forest, Elders 1-4 stand nervously. Weezil and Elders 5-8 enter, wearing baseball caps!)*

- Elder 1** What’s with the snazzy hats?
- Elder 5** Just a present....from the humans.
- Elder 2** They’re trying to buy you with cheap gifts!
- Weezil** Whatever! We can’t wait any longer to give them a decision. It looks like Snowy and Chip have done a runner, so I think we should vote again.
- Elder 3** We know your game, Weezil. You may have got the less-honourable elders on your side, but you won’t get away with this.
- Weezil** I don’t know what you’re talking about. Anyway, all those in favour of letting the humans come? *(Weezil and Elders 5-8 raise hands.)* And all those against? *(Elders 1-4 raise hands.)* That’s five to four in favour. Excellent! I’ll get the contracts signed, and tell the humans the good news. They should be able to start the flattening...I mean developing...in a few days.

*(To **dramatic music (track 21)** all exit. The stage is set for the next scene.)*



## Scene 5

*(The ‘food’ characters are asleep in a line. To one side a checkout girl is at a till. The **news theme tune** plays - **track 22**)*

- Moira** Coming up, food miles. How far has your food travelled to your table?
- Trevor** It’s just a few feet from the freezer to my table, Moira.

**Moir** Not what I meant, Trevor! Food industries are under pressure to provide humans with non-seasonal or exotic produce all year round. The distances travelled by aircraft and lorries, to get this food to our supermarkets, have increased so much that carbon emissions are now at record levels.

**Trevor** Let's see, dinner last night; lamb chops from New Zealand, broccoli from Jordan, green beans from Kenya, potatoes from the Middle East...that's some meal! And news just in, Snowy and Chip are at a supermarket on the outskirts of the city and have been talking to some of the residents.

*(Snowy and Chip enter.)*

**Snowy** Hello? Errr...Hello? *(The food items grunt and snore.)* WAKE UP!

**Corned Beef** *(with a South American accent)* Hey! What's with all the noise?

**Leg of Lamb** *(with a New Zealand accent)* Jeez, mate! What's a leg o' lamb got to do to get a bit of shut-eye?

**Apple** *(with an American accent)* Hey, dude! You wanna give an apple a break? My body clock's all over the place! It's a long flight from California!

**Checkout Girl** Oh, ignore them. It's just the jet lag that makes them cranky.

**Chip** Jet lag? You mean they've been on one of those aeroplanes?!

**Checkout Girl** Well, lots of aeroplanes, from all over the world. I'm actually not surprised they're exhausted. I just wish they wouldn't moan so much!

**Pineapple** *(with a Caribbean accent)* We have every right to be moanin'! There I was, a peaceful pineapple, just relaxin' in the sun. Next thing I know I'm wrapped in cellophane, refrigerated, and flown thousands of miles from home.

**Potato** *(with a Middle Eastern accent)* I'm a potato from Israel! I thought they grew their own potatoes over here? Why do they need me? What's the deal?

*(More food items, the 'food chorus', join the ones on stage for the next song.)*

## Song **What's The Deal?**

*Track 4 - vocal demo  
Track 23 - backing track  
Lyrics p20*

**Checkout Girl** You see, corned beef from South America, lamb from New Zealand, apples from the USA, pineapples from the Caribbean, potatoes from the Middle East.....all coming to supermarkets like this one.

**Apple** And strawberries, lettuce, peas, asparagus, prawns, chicken...

**Leg of Lamb** There's food travelling from all around the world, just to satisfy the humans' desire to eat what they want, when they want.

**Potato** And all the time the planet is becoming more polluted with the carbon produced by the aeroplanes and lorries that bring us here!

- Snowy** I had no idea this is how humans feed themselves. What could they do to change things?
- Pineapple** Try to buy food that is only produced in their own countries. In fact, they should try to support those people who produce it locally.
- Potato** And the shorter the distance it's travelled, the better it will taste.
- Leg of Lamb** They should eat what's in season, and not expect to have the same food all year round. How much more interesting their diets would be.
- Corned Beef** And now, I don't mean to be rude, but we really do need to catch up on our sleep. So if you wouldn't mind.....
- Chip** No, of course. We must be on our way. Nice talking to you. Goodbye.

*(To intro music (track 24) all exit. The stage is made ready for the next scene.)*



## Scene 6

*(A car salesman stands in front of a sign reading 'Quality Used Cars'. He polishes a car. The news theme tune plays - track 25)*

- Moira** Disturbing new figures reveal that, due to global warming causing ice field and glacial melting, sea levels are rising 3mm a year. By 2100 they will be 2 metres higher than they are now! *(note 5)*
- Trevor** Elsewhere, in contrast, higher temperatures and lack of moisture are causing more droughts and wildfires than ever. Australia has seen its worst summer of bushfires on record. *(note 6)*
- Moira** I'll stop you there, Trevor, as we have this news just in; elders Snowy and Chip have reached the city. I'd like to tell you what kind of weather they'll be experiencing, but to be honest it could be doing anything out there! All I can see is smog and engine fumes!

*(Snowy and Chip enter and stop by the car. The salesman approaches them.)*

- Salesman** I see you're admiring the car. Just in today. She's a lovely little runner – one very careful lady owner. How about it? I can do finance at a competitive rate. Fancy a test drive?
- Chip** We don't need a car, thank you. We never usually travel very far.
- Salesman** What's distance got to do with it? This is the city – everyone has a car! Some people have several! You want to pop round the corner to the shops, get in the car. You want to take your kids the half mile to school, get in the car. You want to look cool in front of your friends, get in *this* car!
- Snowy** But why don't people walk? How do they exercise?
- Salesman** Walk? Exercise? We have gyms for those sorts of weirdos. Ooh! Watch out! Rush hour!

*(He pulls Snowy and Chip out of the way, as the drivers enter and take centre stage.)*

## **Song**      **Driving Song**

*Track 5 - vocal demo  
Track 26 - backing track  
Lyrics p21*

*(The cars exit. The salesman pulls out a contract.)*

**Salesman**      So, just sign here. I'll sort the finances, then you're on the road!

**Chip**              But...we....errr

**Salesman**      Look, she's not going to hang around on my lot for long. Just sign!

*(Professor Plantpot and 5 activists enter, waving placards bearing environmental slogans.)*

**Professor**      Hey! Leave them alone. They don't want one of your gas-guzzlers!

**Salesman**      And who, may I ask, are you?

**Activist 1**      This is the famous Professor Plantpot – scientist, environmentalist...

**Professor**      ...and Robot Wars semi-finalist three years running!

**Activist 2**      And we, his/her loyal followers, don't take kindly to the likes of you, who don't realise the damage that traffic does.

**Salesman**      Come on, give me a break. A guy's got to make a living.

**Activist 3**      But there are other ways, other types of vehicles that use other types of fuels that are in plentiful supply, and which cause less harm to the planet. Here, *(handing him a leaflet)* read this, and have a good hard think.

**Salesman**      *(exiting)* Well, I am due a break. I'll have a flick through this, over my cappuccino and donut.

**Professor**      *(to Chip)* You two look far from home. What brings you to the city?

**Chip**              We've come to find out how humans live their lives.

**Snowy**            And to decide whether or not to let them bring their ways to our forest.

**Chip**              But all we've seen is waste, and all we've heard about is pollution and dangerous gases in the air!

**Professor**      Ah, yes. The greenhouse effect!

**Activist 4**      Also known as global warming. Every time we watch TV....

**Activist 5**      ...or use our computers...

**Activist 1**      ...or boil the kettle...

**Activist 2** ...or ride in our cars, it uses energy.

**Professor** This energy usually comes from coal or oil. Engines burn petrol made from oil, and many power stations burn coal to generate the electricity our appliances use. This burning produces carbon emissions, or bad gases!

**Activist 3** These gases rise into the air and hang around, forming a layer that stops heat escaping from the planet. The trapped heat makes the earth warmer!

**Activist 4** So rising sea levels and flooding occur in some areas, and drought and fires in others. Some habitats and animal species may be lost for good!

**Chip** Isn't there anything that humans can do?

**Professor** There is no getting away from the fact that we do need to use electricity in our modern lives, but.....well, let's put it this way.....

## Song **Switch It Off**

*Track 6 - vocal demo  
Track 27 - backing track  
Lyrics p22*

**Snowy** Wow! So just switching things off can help save the planet?

**Activist 5** And hanging washing outside instead of using tumble dryers, having showers instead of baths...

**Activist 1** ...insulating our houses, using energy-saving light bulbs...there are hundreds of things we can all do to help.

**Activist 2** Many humans, like us, now know the dangers the planet faces, and are already doing these things to try and help. But there's such a long way to go.

**Professor** Now, there is one more thing I'd like to show you. Please, would you accompany me to my laboratory.....

*(To **intro music (track 28)** all exit. The stage is made ready for the next scene.)*



## Scene 7

*(A figure lies flat on a table top, covered in a white sheet. Scientific equipment can be set up around the table. The **news theme tune** plays - **track 29**)*

**Moira** Welcome back, and some interesting figures just in; up to 60% of what humans put in a dustbin could be recycled! And, amazingly, if all aluminium cans were recycled, and not thrown away, the UK alone would need 14 million fewer dustbins! *(note 7)* That's astonishing, Trevor!

**Trevor** It certainly is, Moira! That's just the sort of thing elders Snowy and Chip are discovering during their visit to the city. Today they've been the guests of the famous human scientist, Professor Plantpot. Details coming up.

*(Snowy, Chip, the professor and activists enter and stand round the table. The professor starts busying him/herself with the equipment.)*

**Activist 3** Apart from saving energy, there is one other thing we humans can all do at home, to ease the pressure on our poor old planet. And it's not difficult! It's just a matter of changing our habits a little.

**Chip** What is it?

**Activist 4** Recycling, of course.

**Snowy** We've heard that word quite a bit already. What exactly does it mean?

**Activist 5** Well, the rubbish people put in their dustbins all gets taken to a landfill site, like the one you visited, where it just rots and decays. This can take many years and can poison the earth.

**Activist 1** A lot, if not most of that rubbish, could be re-used and turned into things we need. This would mean we'd need to dig fewer resources from the earth, or cut down fewer trees, which in turn means we'd use less energy.

**Activist 2** And it's easy to do. Most of what we want to recycle can be sorted at home, and the council collects it from our doorsteps. What they don't collect can be taken to a nearby recycling centre.

**Activist 3** Aluminium cans can be turned into new cans, or kitchen foil, or food packaging. The metal from food tins has hundreds of uses when recycled.

**Activist 4** Old glass bottles and jars can be cleaned and reused. Broken glass can be melted down and made into anything, from new bottles to tiles!

**Activist 5** All the paper and card that is thrown away can be recycled and used fresh again, in countless different ways. Our used plastic can be turned into anything from phone handsets, to drain pipes and window frames!

**Professor** But if you're really inventive, you can make something like this.....

*(S/he pulls back the sheet to reveal a robot – see staging suggestions/ costumes. S/he presses buttons on a handset, and the robot comes to life!)*

**Professor** Meet Robbie – the living proof that what we throw away as rubbish could be recycled and put to better use.

**Chip** You mean he's made from junk?

**Professor** *(covering Robbie's ears)* Please! Be careful what you say! He's very sensitive! But yes, he's made entirely from bits and pieces I could have thrown away; an old computer, some aluminium cans, a broken saucepan, plastic bottles....lots of things. Even his fuel is recycled – old vegetable oil!

**Activist 1** He can cook and clean, mow the lawn, walk the dog...lots of things.

**Activist 2** And he's great entertainment. Hey Robbie, how about a song?

# Song **R.E.C.Y.C.L.E.**

*Track 7 - vocal demo  
Track 30 - backing track  
Lyrics p23*

- Snowy** Eureka! Professor, I get it! Now I understand why Natura told me to come here! Chip, we have to get back to our forest before it's too late.
- Chip** But it's so far! Professor, can you help!
- Professor** Certainly. I have a brand new, three litre, four by four out the back! Top speed 150 miles per hour!
- All** *(big gasp)* Professor Plantpot! How could you!?
- Professor** Ha ha! Just my little joke! We'll use the bikes. They're quicker through the city than any car. Come on!

*(To intro music (track 31) all exit. The stage is made ready for the next scene.)*



## Scene 8

*(Back in the forest, Elders 1 – 8 and Weezil enter. Weezil sits in Snowy's vacated position. The news theme tune plays - track 32)*

- Moir** And you join us with the future of the forest hanging in the balance! As we speak, bulldozers are lined up ready to begin flattening trees and tearing up the ground.
- Trevor** Some animals have already fled the forest, but most have chosen to stay, having been convinced by the new self-appointed chief elder, Weezil, that life under the humans will be, quote, "really good fun!"
- Moir** And we can now join the first meeting of the council of elders with Weezil in charge. It's over to the forest.....
- Elder 1** But this isn't right! I'm sure Snowy will have something to say about it!
- Weezil** It appears Snowy and Chip have deserted us in favour of a life in the city. And who can blame them, living with all those wonderful human inventions! I am in charge now, so forest matters will proceed as planned.

*(Three construction workers enter.)*

- Worker 1** *(with a sharp intake of breath)* This is a big job. Look at the state of this place! What cowboy built this?
- Elder 1** Nobody 'built' it! This is our forest, which has stood undisturbed for hundreds of thousands of years! Until you arrived, that is!
- Worker 2** Ok, ok! Take it easy! We're only doing our jobs.



**Weezil** Oh, take no notice, my dear human friend. We are very happy to welcome you and are looking forward to working with you.

**Worker 3** Well that’s very civil of you. Now, which bit shall we flatten first?

*(Snowy and Chip enter, with Professor Plantpot, the activists and Robbie.)*

**Snowy** Nobody will be flattening anything!

**All** Snowy! Chip! You’re back!

**Snowy** That’s right! So you, *(to Weezil)* out of my chair! And you, *(to humans)* out of my forest!

**Worker 2** But we’ve got a contract, *(waving a contract)* signed by...*(reading)*...by... here it is...signed by Lord Weezil.

**All** ‘Lord?’ Why you little sneak!

**Chip** It appears someone has ideas above their station. *(to humans)* I’m sorry, but that contract is void. ‘Lord’ Weezil does not have the authority to sign it.

*(Weezil, Elders 5-8 and the workers stand together and shout objections.)*

**Professor** Maybe I can be of some assistance. *(pressing buttons on Robbie’s remote control)* Robbie! A disposal job for you!

**Robbie** *(in a robotic voice)* Waste material identified. Commencing clean-up.

*(Robbie chases the terrified Weezil, Elders 5-8 and workers off stage.)*

**Snowy** My friends, we return from the city much wiser than when we set out on our journey. We’ve seen dirt, rubbish and wastefulness, and all of nature under threat as cars and aeroplanes poison the air. All of this is the work of humans, and they will not be allowed to treat our forest the same way.

**Chip** But there are humans, like the professor and his friends, who care about our world. We’ve seen and learned about recycling, switching off appliances, planting trees, using alternative energy sources, eating locally produced food, using cars less often...many ways that humans are helping the Earth to heal.

**Snowy** *(to the audience)* So let’s give thanks for all we have, and make a promise, here and now, to care for the planet we inhabit, to keep it healthy and strong, so future generations can continue to enjoy what is a wonderful, wonderful world!



Song

# Make A Change Today

Track 8 - vocal demo  
Track 33 - backing track  
Lyrics p24

# THE END



# What Kind Of World?

## Verse 1

*(led by Weezil and Elders 5-8)*

Think of all the marvellous things we'd see;  
Microwaved meals and 24 hour TV!  
We'd have central heating and tumble dryers,  
Cars with souped-up tail pipes and off-road tyres!  
Our lives we'd enrich  
With the flick of a switch....  
What a wonderful, wonderful world that would be!

## Verse 2

*(led by Chip and Elders 1-4)*

See the smoke that hangs in the city skies,  
People gasping in need of exercise.  
Makes me dizzy 'cause everything moves so fast.  
There's noise and waste and nothing is built to last.  
Watching the TV  
With junk food on your knee....  
What a terrible, terrible world that would be!

*(Weezil & Elders 5-8)*

Progress can't be stopped,

*(Chip & Elders 1-4)*

But it comes at a cost.

*(Weezil & Elders 5-8)*

What a wonderful,

*(Chip & Elders 1-4)*

Terrible,

*(Weezil & Elders 5-8)*

Magic,

*(Chip & Elders 1-4)*

Unbearable,

*(All)*

What kind of world would it be?

What kind of world would it be?

# It Doesn't Pay To Be A Tree

**Verse 1** It isn't any good being made of wood,  
Providing homes and nourishment, but still misunderstood.  
Chainsaws are devastating our neighbourhood,  
It doesn't pay to be a tree these days.

**Verse 2** It's simple, can't you see, that our luscious greenery  
Is there for more than just providing pleasant scenery.  
But every day they come at us with their machinery!  
It doesn't pay to be a tree these days.  
Oh, leave us be,  
And let us help the planet breathe.  
Don't cut and chop,  
Please just stop!

**Verse 3** It won't be long, we fear, until we're all gone from here,  
Making room for grazing land, it's why we disappear.  
Without some drastic action then our future's clear!  
It doesn't pay to be a tree these days.  
Oh, leave us be,  
And let us help the planet breathe.  
Don't cut or chop,  
Please just stop.  
Don't cut and chop,  
Please just stop.  
Please just stop.

# Welcome To Our Paradise

**Verse 1** Welcome to our paradise,  
And to you the worst of health.  
Full of tins and plastic bin bags,  
Ooh, how we love the smell!  
Welcome to our paradise,  
Where we have so much to eat!  
Look what human beings get rid of,  
Each bit's a tasty treat!  
Recycle? Why bother?  
You can throw away with ease.  
And we get a lovely place to live,  
So keep it coming, please!

**Verse 2** Welcome to our paradise.  
Yeah, the place just grows and grows!  
But if you live just down the road, well,  
You'd better hold your nose.  
People say the air is stinky,  
We're a stain upon the land.  
These landfills keep expanding,  
We think it's really grand!  
Recycle? Why bother?  
Just keep sending us your gear?  
We're sure the ground will soon recover -  
Just a few more thousand years!  
Welcome to our paradise.  
Just come on in!

# What's The Deal?

**Verse 1**    Something's wrong,  
It doesn't smell quite right!  
This one has just 'gone off'  
During our twelve hour flight!  
Have you any idea,  
Do you appreciate,  
The trials we've endured  
To end up on your plate?  
But is it really necessary that we are flown  
So many thousand miles from our tropical home?  
'Cause Farmer Giles' local food is better than okay.  
What's the deal?

**Verse 2**    They dressed us up real nice  
In top notch cellophane,  
And packed us in a box,  
Then put us on a plane!  
From half way round the world  
We finally touched down,  
Then were dispatched to supermarkets  
Out of town.  
But is it really necessary for modern man  
To want the world, and want it now? We don't understand.  
'Cause Farmer Giles' market shop is going down the pan!  
What's the deal?

# Driving Song

**Verse 1** Hey, out of the way!  
I’ve got a big flashy automobile.  
The school run can be such fun  
Behind this steering wheel!  
Burning fuel, but I don’t care!  
I drive this beauty everywhere.  
Round the corner, down to the shops,  
Or just to drop the children off in style.  
A to B in seconds flat,  
0 to 60 just like that!  
I drive and drive.

**Verse 2** Cruise, Cruising along  
Got the top down and the wind in my hair.  
Don’t mind the smell of fumes  
Or the carbon in the air.  
Outside’s hot, but it’s cool in here.  
Gridlock is my only fear.  
Public transport’s not for me,  
And what’s with all these fitness freaks on bikes?  
If I need to get around  
I can just put my foot down,  
And drive and drive.

**Instrumental** *during which the cars speed around the stage!*

Public transport’s not for me,  
And what’s with all these fitness freaks on bikes?  
If I need to get around  
I can just put my foot down,  
And drive and drive.

# Switch It Off

**Verse 1**     Something's buzzing when you're asleep!  
Satellite telly and your PC,  
On 'standby' using energy.  
That's bad!  
Room is empty, people gone,  
Nothing to see, but the lights are on!  
They've been shining for far too long.  
That's bad!

**Chorus**     *What's the problem? (It's getting hot!)*  
*What's the answer? (Just switch it off!)*  
*Do we listen? (We do not!)*  
*So one more time now! (Switch it off!)*

**Verse 2**  
Mum has asked for a cup of tea,  
So fill the kettle accordingly.  
Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth.  
That's good!  
Why not turn down your thermostat  
Three degrees, where's the harm in that?  
Save on fuel and save some cash!  
That's good!

**Chorus**     *What's the problem.....*

**Repeat Chorus**

# R.E.C.Y.C.L.E.

**Verse 1** Paper, plastic, glass and card and tin,  
Stuff that sometimes ends up in your bin!  
So do the Earth a great big favour,  
Use those boxes that the council gave ya,  
To put all your unwanted items in.

**Chorus** *Don't throw them out  
Unnecessarily.  
We'll spell it out....  
R.E.C.Y.C.L.E.*

**Verse 2** Changing your behaviour just might  
Stop another ugly landfill site.  
Every old box and container  
Can be reused, and help sustain our  
Earth's resources, and keep the future bright.

**Chorus** *Don't throw them out....*

**Repeat Chorus**

# Make A Change Today

**Verse 1** We've reached the end and we've had a lot of fun,  
We're so happy everybody could come along.  
We've seen some things that we human beings do,  
And we hope you all agree that it's just not on.

**Chorus** *It's true, there's a lot of things for all of us to do.  
At least if everybody tries to do just a little piece,  
We'll make a change today.  
We'll make a change today.*

**Verse 2** The planet's been here for many, many years,  
Now it looks like she's in need of a well-earned rest.  
So if you give just a little of your time  
We can all try hard to get her back to her best.

**Chorus** *It's true....*

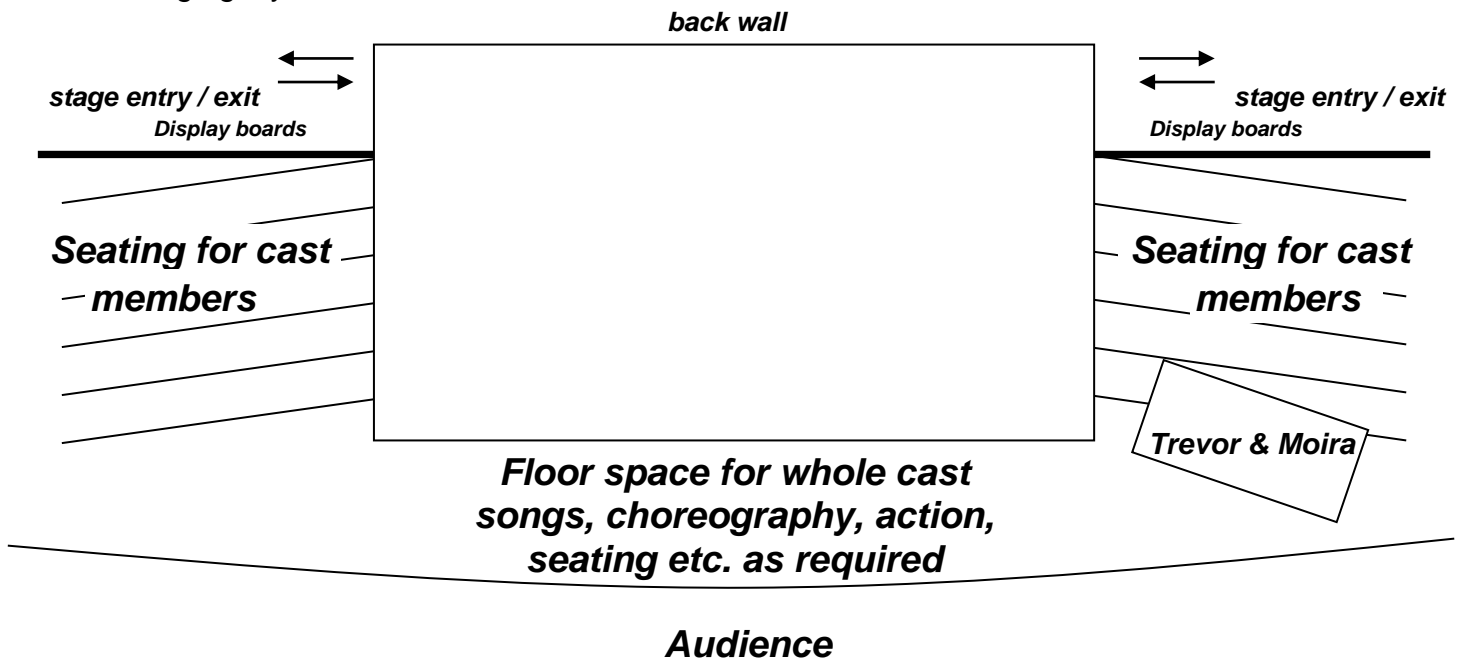
**Repeat** We'll make a change today.  
We'll make a change today.

**Chorus** *It's true....*



# STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

‘A Big Green Adventure’ has been written to be adaptable to most school hall set-ups, whether you have a stage or not. Below is just one representation of a possible staging layout.



- **Scenery** – We recommend using our digital backdrops for scenery. If not, the back wall behind the main stage, and the display boards behind the side stage and seating area, could depict a forest scene on one half, and a city scene on the other – see the front cover of this booklet for inspiration. Alternatively, display boards could be lined up along the back of the stage, showing a forest scene. When the action moves to the city, these display boards could be rotated to show a city scene – this can be done during the continuity music between scenes.
- **Props** –
  - Scene 1:** Two clipboards (for all newsreader scenes). A throne. A cut-out statue of a forest goddess.
  - Scene 1:** Two bundles on sticks (Dick Whittington-style). A small flask.
  - Scene 3:** Two deck chairs. Loads of rubbish spilling out of black bin bags – plastic bottles, tins, paper, food packaging, food items etc etc.
  - Scene 4:** Five baseball caps.
  - Scene 5:** A checkout till on a small table.
  - Scene 6:** A sign reading 'Quality Used Cars'. A selection of children's piddle cars. Steering wheels for the drivers. Five placards with environmental slogans. A leaflet.
  - Scene 7:** A table and large sheet. Scientific workshop/lab equipment. A remote control handset.
  - Scene 8:** A contract.
- **Costume** – For the newsreaders and animal elders, use face paint to suggest animal features. These needn't be the elaborate animal faces associated with face painting, but rather a few whiskers and blackened nose. Antlers, ears or horns could be made and attached to a headband for these characters to wear. The newsreaders should wear suits, and the elders could wear white togas (to show their council status – similar to roman senators) over plain single-coloured leggings and t-shirts. Snowy could wear a

laurel wreath to show seniority. For the trees, simply attach leaf cut-outs to green or brown long-sleeved tops, and wear with brown or black trousers or leggings. The rats could again wear face paint, but should be dressed in tatty, stained vests and perhaps braces to accentuate their slovenly characteristics. For the food items in scene 5 you could cut out large pictures of a can of corned beef, an apple, a pineapple etc, for the actors to hold or wear round their necks, over neutral coloured clothes. In this scene the checkout girl can wear a tabard (maybe borrowed from a lunchtime supervisor). A sheepskin coat and trilby would make the car salesman easily identifiable, as would a lab coat for Professor Plantpot. The activists could wear outdoor hiking gear, suggestive of long periods of time being spent outside protesting! Robbie’s costume can be a collection of foil-covered or painted boxes, attached to the limbs and body of the actor. These can be decorated to show detail of the bits and bobs from which the character has been made. Finally, the workers in the last scene can be dressed in simple overalls and hard hats.

- **Reducing and increasing the cast size**

**Scene 1:** **To reduce:** cut the number of Elders to 4, so there are 2 for and 2 against the vote. Have just one newsreader – lines will need editing.

**To increase:** introduce more elders.

**Scene 2:** **To reduce:** have just one speaking tree delivering all the lines.

**To increase:** introduce more trees and research more facts for them to talk about.

**Scene 3:** **To reduce and increase:** cut or add to the number of ensemble rats.

**Scene 4:** As scene 1.

**Scene 5:** **To reduce:** just have one food item discussing its origins and distance travelled.

**To increase:** introduce more food items and research more air-mile facts for them to talk about.

**Scene 6:** **To reduce:** have fewer activists, perhaps just one, speaking all the lines. Have fewer ensemble drivers.

**To increase:** introduce more activists with more green facts to talk about.

**Scene 7:** As scene 6

**Scene 8:** **To reduce:** have just one construction worker delivering all the lines.

**To increase:** introduce more ensemble workers.

- **Use of Space** – The whole cast will probably want to be involved in the performance of most of the songs. A space on the floor in front of the main stage could be used to accommodate extra bodies. In this space, for some songs, the cast could perform dance routines or act out the lyrical content. A seating area for resting performers could be allocated to one side of the stage. This lets them enjoy the performance as part of the audience, allows easy movement on and off the stage, and of course eliminates the need for back-stage supervision.
- **Content** – You can personalise your performance by adding or changing character names, and re-writing any parts of the script to make them more appropriate to your particular school. Perhaps your children could research environmental facts to include in the dialogue. Different songs that the children know and enjoy could replace, or be added to those on the CD. Don’t feel restricted – make the show your own.

As always, our last suggestion and most important suggestion is that you have fun and enjoy your big green adventure!

## **STATISTICAL SOURCES AND USEFUL INFORMATION**

The script for this production contains various environmental statistics. Each statistic is referenced by a number (eg “note 1”) in the script. Below are links to reliable website sources from which each of these statistics was taken.

By following the links you will find each statistic explained in more detail, and will be able to retrieve a lot more information about related topics on which to base any further environmental discussions in class.

**note 1**

<https://www.britannica.com/science/deforestation>

**note 2**

<https://www.ecowatch.com/amazon-deforestation-unrecoverable-tipping-point-2639358982.html>

**note 3**

<https://www.sciencefocus.com/planet-earth/how-many-trees-does-it-take-to-produce-oxygen-for-one-person/>

**note 4**

<https://www.wastedive.com/news/world-bank-global-waste-generation-2050/533031/>

**note 5**

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-is-worldwide-sea-level-rise-driven-by-melting-arctic-ice/>

**note 6**

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/dec/25/factcheck-why-australias-monster-2019-bushfires-are-unprecedented>

**note 7**

<https://thinkcans.net/aluminium/10-aluminium-facts>