

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.

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





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)

Camilla 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, Camilla, 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 talk with our live presenter, Trevor.

[NEW: Trevor live cut-in — enters from wing with handheld mic, stops downstage, facing the news desk/audience.]

Trevor (live, forest council)
Hello, Trevor here, live outside the council circle. Elders are taking their seats and the mood is... cautious but determined. We're expecting a tight vote and a few sharp words. Watch this space folks, I can feel the tension in the air already.

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!"

Camilla 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. And now, we can go live to Trevor, who is on location with the trees themselves.

Trevor (live, forest edge):

Trevor here, reporting live from within the forest canopy. Conditions are dry and the trees are getting a little fir-strated as they wait for rainfall. Tensions are definitely rising — you could say the atmosphere is... branching into concern. Snowy and Chip are expected any moment, so I'll leaf it there and keep you updated as the situation unfolds. Back to you in the studio.

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

Tree 6 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 5 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!

Camilla 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.
We can now go live to Trevor, who is on location

Trevor Trevor reporting live from a landfill where the aroma is... let’s call it bold and unforgettable — mostly because it refuses to leave my nostrils. The landscape is a dramatic range of rubbish hills, complete with flying newspapers acting like aggressive pigeons. Local residents — mainly rats — seem remarkably cheerful, possibly because they’re the only ones enjoying the smell. I’ll be keeping my nose to the ground...though not quite literally.

‘A Big Green Adventure’ by Colin Magee & Andrew Oxspring.

(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!

Grotter 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.

Grotter 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?
- Camilla** It’s just a few feet from the freezer to my table, Moira.
- Moira** Not what I meant, Camilla! 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.
- Camilla** Oh dear, Moira. Not a good sign. And now, we can go live to Trevor, who is reporting from a supermarket on the edge of the city.
- Trevor** Trevor here, reporting live from a city supermarket where the shelves are stacked higher than my weekly stress levels. I’ve just checked the ingredients for my own dinner last night: lamb from New Zealand, broccoli from Jordan, green beans from Kenya, and potatoes from the Middle East — and that was just one meal! Many of the items here have travelled farther than I did for last year’s holiday.

(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.

Banana An' don't forget about me — a humble banana who flew thousands of miles just to sit here turning brown in someone's fruit bowl!

Potato *(with a Middle Eastern accent)* I'm a potato from Egypt! 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)*

Camilla 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, Camilla, as we have this news just in; elders Snowy and Chip have reached the city. Trevor is live on the scene at a used car lot, where things appear to be... congested.

Trevor (live, car lot):

Trevor here, reporting live from a city car lot where traffic jams start before you've even bought the car. I'm surrounded by engines, exhaust fumes, and at least one customer who's been trying to reverse park for six minutes. If Snowy and Chip are nearby, they may need a map, a mask, and possibly a bicycle.

(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 Plant 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 Plant – scientist and environmentalist...

Professor Pot ...and I'm Professor Pot – inventor, tinkerer, and Robot Wars semi-finalist three years running!

Activist 2 And we, their 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 Plant *(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 Pot Ah, yes. The greenhouse effect!

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

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

Activist 6 ...or boil the kettle...

Activist 7 ...or ride in our cars, it uses energy.

Professor Plant 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!

Professor Pot 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 3 It's a disaster!

Activist 4 Yes and 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 Plant 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, Camilla!
- Camilla** It certainly is, Moira! And 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 scientists, Professors Plant and Pot. And now we can go live to Trevor, who is reporting from outside their laboratory
- Trevor** Trevor here, reporting live from the steps of the laboratory, where scientific activity is buzzing louder than a bee near a jam sandwich. Safety goggles are being handed out like sweets, and I’m told the professors are preparing a demonstration that could ‘change everything’—their words, not mine. I’ll keep a close eye on events from a safe distance that’s for sure.

(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 Plant 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 Pot 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 Plant *(covering Robbie's ears)* Please! Be careful what you say! He's very sensitive! But yes, he's made entirely from bits and pieces we could have thrown away; an old computer, some aluminium cans, a broken saucepan, plastic bottles....lots of things.

Professor Pot 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 Plant Certainly. I have a brand new, three litre, four by four out the back! Top speed 150 miles per hour!

Professor Pot *(big gasp)* Professor Plant! How could you!?

Professor Plant 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)

Moira 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.

Camilla 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!"

Moira And we can now join the first meeting of the council of elders with Weezil in charge. It's over to Trevor, who once again is in the forest.....

Trevor Trevor here, reporting live from the forest edge. And it's hard to see the Heavy machinery is standing by, and the air is thick with uncertainty. Animals are gathering in groups, clearly worried about what comes next. We're expecting Snowy and Chip to arrive at any moment, and their return may be the turning point everyone has been waiting for.

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 3 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 Pot Maybe we can be of some assistance. (*pressing buttons on Robbie's remote control*)

Professor Plant 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.

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.

Natura Children of the forest... you have chosen wisely.
Snowy, your journey has taught you what all leaders must learn:
that wisdom grows when we listen,
and peace thrives when we protect the smallest among us.
Guard this home, nurture it,
and let your actions echo through the generations.

Snowy (*bowing head*)
Thank you, great Natura. We will honour your guidance.

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....*