



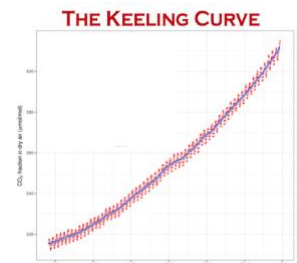
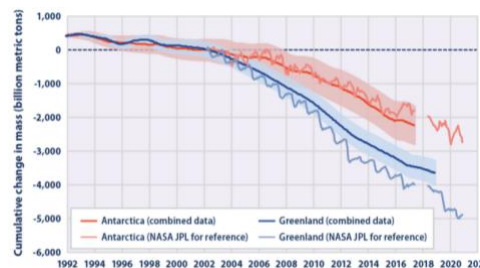
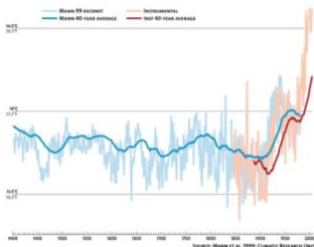
# PEACE CHILD CLIMATE CHANGE MUSICAL

## 30-MINUTE WORKSHOP / FORUM SCRIPT



Peace Child International – [www.peacechildthemusical.com](http://www.peacechildthemusical.com) / email: [david@peacechild.com](mailto:david@peacechild.com)

### Sad Opening – The Problem: [4 mins]



“World” song plays – over the Hockey Stick graph which extends slowly across the screen. David and Lauren come on stage. A table with costumes is set up Stage Left – which David turns to between scenes to change hats / jackets etc. David wears a school teacher’s gown; Lauren wears the same casual clothes throughout.

- Lauren The World is getting warmer – the Polar Ice Caps are shrinking.... Why?!
- David Because the cars we drive, the planes we fly, the things we buy, the meat we eat – wraps the planet in a blanket of smoke and dust that cooks it like a potato in an oven!  
(Change slide to the Keeling Curve going up relentlessly!) And that blanket’s getting thicker every year!
- Lauren How bad is it now?
- David Pretty Bad...
- Lauren End-of-the-world bad – or go-sit-on-the-naughty-step bad?
- David Bad enough to kill millions of people every year – and cost the world trillions of dollars
- Lauren Already?
- David Yes – and by the time you’re my age, it will be much, much worse. Could be End-of-the-world bad!
- Lauren So why aren’t you doing anything about it?
- David I’m trying – all my life, I’ve been trying. But people just don’t listen!
- Lauren Well – you haven’t been trying hard enough, have you! Who can we get to help?
- David You could try your Dad! –
- Lauren My Dad!?
- David He’s in advertising isn’t he? The business of persuading people to do things!
- Lauren Brilliant!! I’ll talk to him!

David puts on a sharp jacket and snazzy cap. Lauren turns round and challenges him:

# 1.The Advertising Agent: [2.5 mins]

Lauren So Dad! You're in the business of persuading people to do things?

David To buy things. Yes

Lauren Even if they don't want – or really need them?

David I suppose!

Lauren And the Advertising business worldwide is worth how much?

David About \$600 billion dollars a year! That's about half a Trillion pounds!

Lauren So you're spending half a Trillion pounds persuading people to buy things they don't need which could destroy the planet?!

David It's what my clients pay me to do!

Lauren But Dad! You could use all your skill – all the brilliant creative people who work here for you – to advertise ways to SAVE the Planet! To live SUSTAINABLE lives!

David Who would pay me to do that?

Lauren I don't know! But – can't you see that it's rather shocking to find out that my Dad is spending his life getting people to buy things that could destroy his daughter's future!?

David What do you expect me to do? Get my clients to pay me to get people NOT to buy their products? That's never going to happen.

Lauren I expect you to help me save the planet! To secure a Sustainable Future!

David I can't! No one's going to pay me to get people to STOP buying things! How could I afford to put food on the table – take you on nice holidays?

Lauren You've got to do something, Dad!

David That's not my job! Go talk to Greta Thunberg – or those long-haired hippy activists who keep glueing themselves to motorways to save the planet....

Lauren I will.

*David puts on a grubby anorak and a baseball cap – picks up a placard and turns around. Lauren challenges him:*

# 2.The NGO Activist: [2.5 mins]

Lauren I want to join your movement! Together, we can save the World!

David Don't bet on it!

Lauren What?! You don't think you can change the world?!

David I seriously doubt it!

Lauren Why do you keep on protesting then?

David You've got to do something....

Lauren But – if enough of us protest, surely things will change?!

David Not in my experience: a \$5 trillion dollar a year Oil industry takes an awful lot of beating!

Lauren What does your banner say?

David *(Turns it around)* "Make Tea not War!"

Lauren *(Laughing)* Why tea?

David It made you laugh! And it stops us taking ourselves too seriously.

Lauren So you're saying that your protests are not serious?!

David They are!! Very, very serious!

Lauren So what has all your protest achieved?  
David We've got a few headlines, got ourselves arrested, got up a few politicians noses....  
Lauren But did it change anything?  
David Not in my experience!  
Lauren So what can change things?  
David Not giving up hope, I guess! I dunno... They say all power comes out of the barrel of a gun: why not go talk to the army people?  
Lauren I will

*David puts on a Military cap and jacket – and turns round, holding a stick under his arm and saluting:*

### 3.The Military Man: [2.5 mins]

Lauren *(deferential)* Thank you very much for seeing me, sir  
David My pleasure. What did you want to see me about?  
Lauren Defense, sir  
David Good! Defense is my business!  
Lauren Defense of the planet, sir: we the peoples have mounted a full-scale war against the natural resources of the planet, and the planet has no way of fighting back. We're squeezing it dry like a sponge – and my generation worry that, by the time we get to your age, there's going to be precious little planet left for us all to live on....  
David So – what do you expect me to do about it?  
Lauren Well, sir: governments spend upwards of TWO trillion dollars every year defending ourselves against each other: couldn't we spend some of that defending mother nature against ourselves.  
David I suppose we could: but that's not my decision. I take my orders from the politicians...  
Lauren But the politicians listen to your advice, sir: you are the Defense Professionals, aren't you?!  
David Yes – and we're spending a great deal on making the Military more sustainable: we've got tanks that run on natural gas, green boilers in all our barracks....  
Lauren That's pathetic!! None of that's going to protect our future! Surely it's your job to tell the government where the biggest threats lie – and right now, the biggest dangers lie in human greed – and our hunger for luxury goods and holidays!!  
David Not sure that ships and tanks and planes are much of a defense against that?  
Lauren Exactly! Look, sir! You've persuaded governments to spend billions on equipment to protect us from all kinds of different enemies. Surely you can ask the government to use you – and your wonderful soldiers – to protect us all from the biggest enemy we face right now? US – and our greed?  
David That's not my job! Why don't YOU ask the Government? Talk to your local MP?  
Lauren It is your job! I think it's everyone's job but you, like everyone else, think it's someone else's job. OK – I'll go talk to my Member of Parliament!

*David puts on a velvet-collared coat and trilby hat – and turns round:*

### 4.The Government Official:

David *(Hurrying towards her)* Lauren, is it? Sorry – I can only give you five minutes...  
Lauren Five minutes to save the planet, Great!  
David Well sorry, but you're not even a voter!

Lauren I am actually! I turned 18 last year! But shouldn't you be taking care of all these young future voters? Their future depends on what your government does today.

David No government has done more to tackle climate change than our's!

Lauren Oh come on, sir! You could do so much more!

David Like what!?

Lauren What about a law that bans the production, sale and use of oil and coal from – say – 2030?

David Well – we're banning the manufacture of cars that run on petrol from 2035!

Lauren You know that's not nearly enough

David It's a start!

Lauren What about home heating? In Sweden, you can't build a new house without a ground or air-source heat pump. Why don't you make that the law here?

David Because this is NOT Sweden!! People don't move that fast in this country.

Lauren But the scale of the Climate Emergency DEMANDS that you that you move that fast!!

David Doesn't matter what I think. I do what my constituents want: they vote for me to be here.

Lauren I thought the point of leadership was to inspire people to follow your lead?!

David *(shrugs)* It doesn't often work that way?

Lauren You must know that all these cars and planes and clothes and holidays and GREED!! – will make it impossible for this planet to support our Generation into our old age?! WE will HAVE to turn it around because YOU have NOT!  
You have the power to pass laws that can force EVERYONE to live in a way that will allow our children and grand-children to have a planet to live a happy life on. Why haven't you done that?

David Because you – my voters! – haven't asked us to!

Lauren You haven't tried very hard to make us WANT to ask you!

David Probably because you – and local businesses – are doing just fine as they are right now.

Lauren Until it isn't fine. By when it's too late! You really don't want to lead on this stuff, do you?

David It's not my job!

Lauren So – who's job is it?!

David You! The voters! Your parents. The Business leaders who pay the taxes that allow us to govern! Governments are obedient to them, especially in America! Go talk to them!

Lauren I will!

*David puts on a check shirt and a cowboy hat – and turns round:*

## 5.The Business Executive:

Lauren You mean – you're really in the business of building a green, sustainable business?

David Yes! *(speaking in an American accent)* Why does it surprise you to find that Business leading the Green Transition? ESG business is the fastest-growing, and one of the most profitable, business sectors at the moment.

Lauren ESG?

David Environmental, Social and Governance. Basically, business that's good for the Planet! It always surprises me that anyone would want to do business that's bad for the Planet – but some do, even if they don't make as much money. Crazy!

Lauren So you think Business can lead the Green Transition?

David Business is leading the Green Transition. We built and operated the Brown Economy. We're building, and will operate, the Green Economy. No one else can.

Lauren So why don't you do it already?

David Because it's very hard: business has to obey government regulations, do what our customers want and keep our prices competitive to stay in business and make a profit. And a business that doesn't make a profit doesn't survive – and that's no use to anyone.

Lauren So why aren't all business leaders like you – driving the Green Transition? What would it take to make them?

David Government regulation, I guess.

Lauren What government regulation?

David Clever, strong and imaginative regulation. Like your European Green Deal with its Border Adjustment Mechanisms. That's a great one! I'm hoping they'll buy into that here in America...

Lauren What can we do to get Governments to be more imaginative?

David Vote for imaginative politicians who support the building of a green, sustainable Economy. NEVER ever vote for the dunderheads who support the old Oil and Coal economy.

Lauren So get the government regulations right, and everything would be just fine?!

David It couldn't be any worse!! But I have kids too and I'm scared to death about the mess we're leaving to you guys! My generation – and most businesses – have been recklessly greedy and selfish! But Business is not in the business of regulating greed and selfishness. That's the job of government.

Lauren You could self-regulate.

David I could – but if I was the only one, I'd very quickly go out of business....

Lauren So what do we need to do?

David If I knew, I'd tell you! But honestly – after a lifetime of thinking about it – I really don't know!

Lauren *(in frustration)* Ach!

David Sorry kid – but maybe it would be easier if you just face up to it: we're screwed! It's not your fault – it's my generation's fault! I'll be dead soon – and there are worse things than dying. Face it! Perhaps we never did deserve this beautiful planet.... *(He turns away, taking off his hat and shirt)*

Lauren NO!! *(screaming louder and louder)* **NO!! NO!! NO!! NO!!**

David *(pulling on his Teacher Gown)* Whatever's the matter?

## The Forum – SOLUTIONS?

Lauren We're done for! This whole idea of a "Sustainable Future" is lovely – but impossible. This whole climate summit is a waste of time!

David Surely not?!

Lauren Everyone says "It's NOT my Job!" "It's not my fault!" "Don't ask me to change things...." It's always some one else's problem! Face it! Perhaps we never did deserve this beautiful planet....

David You know that's not true?!

Lauren How?

David You said at the outset that it is your generation that's going to have to solve the problem.

Lauren So – ?

David So – ask them: all these people here: they're your generation, and they all go to great schools and they've come to this climate summit to find solutions. They must have some ideas.

Lauren Do they?

David Ask them!

Lauren What do you think?!

*She starts a conversation with the workshop attendees teasing out ideas and suggestions from as many of them as possible. David helps and writes up notes on the Powerpoint Screen (which we will send back to the organisers – to distribute to the attendees if they wish) – but Lauren leads the conversation moving amongst the students and urging them to get into a robust debate on what should / should not be done. When – IF – the conversation flags, David asks Lauren –*

David Can I make a suggestion?

Lauren Sure!

David I just wondered what you all felt about that suggestion you mentioned to your MP for “a law that bans the production, sale and use of oil and coal from 2030?” (he brings it up on the screen)

*They discuss the idea – and others until, 5-minutes from the end, Lauren wraps it up, saying:*

## Upbeat Ending – Next Steps:

Lauren OK – we’re nearly out of time and we’ve got a ton of good ideas that we will send on to you, along with the ideas that we get from the other 2 x workshops. But – we need to ask the question HOW?

David HOW do you get these great ideas to happen?

Lauren Any thoughts?

*Again, she moves amongst the workshop attendees teasing out ideas and suggestions from as many of them as possible. David writes up their Action Ideas on the Powerpoint Screen*

David (IF we get any ideas) This is great! What a great group of kids

Lauren Thank you! I’ve learned so much from you – but it’s not just me you’ve got to teach: I want you to go home and teach your parents, your teachers, your uncles, your aunts – your grans and granpas, brothers and sisters – friends! EVERYONE – about what you’ve learned today.

David It is your most important challenge for your generation. My Generation has pretty much completely failed you – but I have every confidence that you will succeed if you do half of what we’ve talked about today.

Lauren Let us leave you with a 1-minute animation that shows you what we think young people like you need to do!

*Show “Grab the Wheel” animation.*

Lauren & David: Thanks for being a great audience!

## Timings

**Sad Opening – The Problem:** [4 mins = 4 mins]

- **The Advertising Agent:** [2.5 mins = 6.5 mins]
- **The NGO Activist:** [2.5 mins = 9 mins]
- **The Military Man:** [2.5 mins = 11.5 mins]
- **The Government Official:** [2.5 mins = 14 mins]
- **The Business Executive:** [2.5 mins = 16.5 mins]

**The Forum – Solutions:** [5 mins = 21.5 mins]

**Upbeat Ending – Next Steps** [5 mins = 26.5 mins]

**Grab the Wheel Animation:** [1 min = 27.5 min]