

Learning by Ear – Climate Change

Episode 08

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Editing: Johannes Beck

CHARACTERS:

Scene 1:

- MR KAPOOR – MD & OWNER NATIONAL POWER BOARD (60)
- MR WANGAI – BUSINESSMAN (50)

Scene 2:

- CAROL (14)
- JOSHUA (15)
- LORNA (16)
- MRS CHRISTINE KIMASI – RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTOR (50)
- ALEX (15)

Scene 3:

- MRS KIMAU – SCIENCE TEACHER (45)
- GEORGE (15)
- LORNA (16)

- CAROL (14)
- JOSHUA (15)
- ALEX (15)
- ROBERT (16)
- HENRY (16)

Intro:

Welcome to Learning by Ear and Episode Eight of our radio drama about climate change. The demonstration was a success and finally the Task Force has found people are willing to help them find a renewable energy solution for the power plant. In this episode the schoolchildren discover even cows contribute to climate change.

Find out more as we listen to today's episode.

Scene One: Office of the National Power Board

SFX ATMO:

OFFICE

- 1. MR KAPOOR:** So you see, Mr Wangai, things aren't really going according to plan with the power plant. We're not on schedule at all to start construction in a month.
- 2. MR WANGAI:** **(by conference call via phone)** Do I understand that it's just four schoolchildren who are behind the demonstration in Dhowville that got so much publicity? The same kids who are responsible for the public opposition to the power plant?
- 3. MR KAPOOR:** Yes, Sir, that's correct. They are hell bent on getting us to go down some renewable energy route. But they're children, so they don't really know what is best for them or their town. Their defence is environmental damage, climate change blah blah blah... We need to go on the press offensive even if it means bribing the Press. And then we need to have a meeting with these kids.

5. MR WANGAI: (by conference call via phone) So, despite all of our gentle warnings you think they're determined enough to see it through?

6. MR KAPOOR: Yes, I do, Mr Wangai.

7. MR WANGAI: (by conference call via phone) Right then, I think we need to start throwing some more money at this. Deal with the Press and set up a meeting!

SFX: **CLICK AS LINE GOES DEAD**

Scene Two: Cattle Farm

SFX ATMO: **COWS**

8. CAROL: Joshua, why on earth are we having a meeting at a cattle farm?

9. JOSHUA: Errr, to be honest, Carol, I'm not really sure... It's just this renewable energy investor wanted us to meet us here. I think she knows the farmer.

10. CAROL: Errr, right. Ah, look, here comes someone!

SFX: **CAR ARRIVING OPEN/CLOSE DOORS**

11. MRS KIMASI: Hi there, Joshua. Glad to see you're all here. Hi, I'm Christine Kimasi.

12. CAROL: I'm Carol.

13. LORNA: And I'm Lorna. We're all intrigued to find out why we're meeting at a farm!

14. MRS KIMASI: I thought you might be. I also thought you might be intrigued to learn that these lovely cows, along with the other one point five billion cows worldwide, account for five per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions.

15. ALEX: You are joking!

16. CAROL: What – a cow is contributing to climate change? How?

- 17. MRS KIMASI:** When they belch, they belch out methane.
- 18. JOSHUA:** The same gas that is emitted from landfill sites?
- 19. MRS KIMASI:** Yes, exactly, Joshua. It's the wind coming out of their mouths, not the gases from their rears that does the damage to the environment.
- 20. JOSHUA:** But you can't stop cows belching.
- 21. MRS KIMASI:** Of course not. But scientists in the UK have just come up with a new food – a mixture of chopped straw and hay that settles the cow's stomach and can reduce emissions of methane by twenty per cent.
- 22. CAROL:** That's incredible, but why don't we have it here?
- 23. MRS KIMASI:** Well, you know how long these things take to come to the developing world.

- 24. ALEX:** Yeah, same old story – lack of money here to do anything to stop climate change.
- 25. MRS KIMASI:** That's wrong, Alex. We can raise the money for projects if we put in a good proposal and get good people on board to help.
- 26. LORNA:** So, Mrs Kimasi, what are your thoughts on the power plant. Have you come up with a plan?
- 27. MRS KIMASI:** Well, considering the location and the resources within easy reach of Dhowville, I think we have three renewable energy options.
- 28. CAROL:** Three? Which ones?
- 29. MRS KIMAI:** I think, Carol, our options are biogas, wind or hydro power.
- 30. CAROL:** Biogas?

- 31. MRS KIMASI:** Yes, depending on where it's produced, biogas is called swamp, marsh or landfill gas. Basically, it's organic waste that decomposes and the gas that's emitted is captured and used as energy.
- 32. LORNA:** Can it only be landfill waste?
- 33. MRS KIMSAI:** No, you can also produce biogas from manure, sewage, town waste and even crops or cow dung.
- 34. LORNA:** But, theoretically we could use waste from the landfill site?
- 35. MRS KIMASI:** Yes, that is a possibility.
- 36. ALEX:** Did you say cow dung as well?
- 37. MRS KIMASI:** Yes. In India, individual households use their cow dung to produce biogas to cook with.
- 38. CAROL:** That is amazing! So even though these belching cows aren't good for climate change – at least they can offer a partial solution!

39. MRS KIMASI: Right, let's leave the cows now – it's quite smelly here. Let's all go into town and find somewhere to talk through the other options?

40. JOSHUA: Yes, let's go.

Scene Three:

SFX ATMO: **CLASSROOM**

41. MRS KIMAU: Quiet everyone! We're still working on the topic of climate change. For your homework I asked you to go through the newspapers and the internet and find some current examples of climate change globally. Now, who's going to go first?

42. GEORGE: Well, I found out that the new president of the Maldives – a whole load of small islands in the Indian Ocean – is trying to buy a new homeland for all his countrymen as their islands are sinking due to climate change!

- 43. MRS KIMAU:** That's a very important example, George. Can you tell us more?
- 44. GEORGE:** There are twelve hundred little islands and eighty per cent of them are no more than a metre above sea level. That's like the height of this desk! Scientists think that within one hundred years the Maldives might be uninhabitable.
- 45. CAROL:** So, the sea level is rising each year?
- 46. GEORGE:** Yes, that's what I read. On one of the islands some of the residents want to evacuate sooner because their homes are flooded every two weeks by tidal surges.
- 47. CAROL:** And rising sea levels are a result of climate change?

48. MRS KIMAU: Yes, that's correct Carol. As the world warms, heat is transferred to the oceans. And, of course, as you know, when materials are heated, they expand. It's called thermal expansion. So the global warming causes sea water to expand which then results in a rise in the sea level.

49. GEORGE: And, the hotter it gets on Earth, the more ice is melting in regions like Greenland. And in mountainous regions many glaciers are also shrinking. This pours additional water into the oceans and contributes to the rise in the sea level. Oh, and I also read that in the Maldives the weather has changed a lot and even the locals and fishermen can't predict the seasons anymore – a bit like here.

50. MRS KIMAU: That's interesting, George. So, as you can see, other countries are experiencing the same changing weather patterns as we are, too..

- 51. GEORGE:** Oh, and Mrs Kimau, I read that the Maldives was the first country to sign up to the Kyoto Protocol.
- 52. MRS KIMAU:** Can you explain the Kyoto Protocol, George?
- 53. GEORGE:** Isn't it an agreement between countries to each reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to slow down the climate change?
- 54. MRS KIMAU:** Yes, but many countries still haven't signed it. Amongst them are some of the biggest global polluters.
- 57. GEORGE:** But the problem is, that it is we here in Africa who are suffering from the impact of climate change but we're not the biggest producers of greenhouse gases.
- SFX:** **BELL**
- 59. MRS KIMAU:** Right, there's the lunch bell. We'll continue with some more of your examples next lesson.

SFX: **SCRAPING CHAIRS/CHATTER**

60. HENRY: Hey, Lorna, I hope you've given up opposing the power plant. My dad says you four are going to stop us getting electricity.

61. ROBERT: Yeah, that's what my mum said too. She said it was on the radio that you four from our school are ruining Dhowville's chances of developing into a proper city!

62. LORNA: **(fighting)** Robert, get off me! Don't push me around! What d'you mean, you heard it on the radio?

63. HENRY: Go and read today's papers! Everyone's saying it's going to be your fault if we don't get that power plant.

64. ALEX: **(running up)** Hey, Henry, get off her! Don't push girls around like that!

65. ROBERT: You too, Alex. The town's not going to let you stop us getting electricity!

SFX: **SLAMMING OF DOOR**

66. JOSHUA: Lorna, what was all that about? I saw Robert push you.

67. LORNA: Yeah, Joshua, it seems like the National Power Board are up to their old tricks again. They've obviously been paying the Press to dampen down the opposition.

68. CAROL: I can't believe our school mates are now turning against us. I think it's time we get Mr Gitaki, the minister for the environment, to help us. He said he would. Come on, let's go!

END OF EPISODE 8

Outro:

And that's all from Learning by Ear for today. Join us next time when the task force finally sits down to a meeting with the pro-power plant company.

This series about climate change is written by Victoria Averill.

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Goodbye for now and thanks for listening!