

Music Reviews

Music for a Green Planet



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Saving the planet was never so much fun.

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Artist: [Hayes Greenfield](#)
Genre: [Children's Music](#) **Label:** Dots and Lines **Parental Advisory:** No **Edited Version Available:** No **Release Date:** 04/03/2008

Common Sense Note

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Parents need to know that this album is full of joyful and witty jazz tunes that celebrate the environment and every human being's part in saving it. Each song is a play on a classic children's song and has been given new lyrics and a jazzy update; for instance, "This Old Man" has morphed into "This Green Man," with a soulful sax accompaniment and a chorus about hybrid cars and compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Families can talk about the big and little things we can all do to save our natural resources. What can your family do to make sure you don't "take more than you need" message on this album. Make a family field trip to your local hardware store to buy energy-efficient light bulbs and green cleaning supplies for a spring cleaning (and greening) of your own environment. Find out about Earth Day events in your area and go as a family. Or, try doing your own "Earth Hour," where every light and appliance in the house is shut off for an hour (it's harder than it sounds!)

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Common Sense Review

Reviewed By: [Amy Weaver Dorning](#)

Just in time for Earth Day comes this fantastic family jazz album by Hayes Greenfield, a veteran musician whose "Jazz-Ma-Tazz" album and education series won multiple awards and praise from the industry and parents alike. Now, he's added saving the environment to his mission and has come up with an album that will have parents and kids alike celebrating the environment and renewing their commitment to do something to help. With help from some of Broadway's top performers, as well as a host of jazz greats, this CD gives old lullabies new life with lushly layered studio production and smart, never overbearing messages (the lyrics were penned by environmental activist Margo Schepart).

Each song is a surprise with its mix of familiar and new and they actually pack a lot of information -- like how turbines work (water power) and what geothermal power is, all set to superb jazz beats. The Things we Throw Away," fetchingly sung by 8-year-old *Les Misérables* star Carly Sonenclar, lists the hundreds of seemingly insignificant items we toss everyday, like Ketchup and sugar packets and plastic forks that come in paper bags, tracing them back to the places they were made -- factories and sugar cane fields. The gorgeous "Rock-a-bye

Rainforest" sounds like a song you'd listen to in an after-hours jazz club and will rock your little ones to sleep in style. Destined to become a family favorite.

Other earth-friendly media: [Every Day Is Earth Day](#), [It's Earth Day](#), and [EcoKids.ca](#).

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Content	CS	adults	kids
Sexual Content	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Violence	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Language	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Message	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Social Behavior Every song celebrates environmental awareness and doing your part.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Commercialism	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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