

# OZONews

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & related issues compiled by:  
UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme  
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## **1)- VIENNA CONVENTION COMPLETES 15 YEARS**

22 March, 2000 was the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. With the adoption of this Convention, the foundation was laid for concerted international efforts to protect the ozone layer. It helped to pave the way for the more comprehensive agreement that was to follow - the Montreal Protocol.

The Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer are now acknowledged as outstanding successes and as examples to be followed for the solution of global environmental problems through global cooperation and partnership.

The Vienna Convention committed parties to protecting human health and the environment against the adverse effects of depletion of the ozone layer due to human activities. It set out broad principles of ozone layer protection, rather than establishing the detailed phase-out schedule of ozone-depleting substances, which were later included in the Montreal Protocol in 1987. The Convention committed States to cooperate in researching the causes and effects of ozone depletion as well as alternative technologies; to cooperate on adopting legal and policy measures to counteract activities that are harmful to the atmosphere and to facilitate the transfer of technology and transmission of information, especially to developing countries.

Both the Convention and the Protocol allowed the Parties thereto to progress step-by-step, in building ownership of the process by all Governments, industry, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academia, among others. At its adoption on 22 March 1985, the Convention was signed by 28 countries. There are now 173 Parties to the Vienna Convention. These Parties have phased out 84 per cent of consumption of the chemicals that destroy the ozone layer. This path must continue to ensure recovery of the ozone layer by the year 2050. ([www.unep.org/ozone](http://www.unep.org/ozone))

**Source: The Ecofrig Revolution, Volume IV, Issue II, March-April, 2000**

## **2)- 'CUTS' HITS ON DOUBLE STANDARDS**

In the Indian context, refrigeration companies, especially the multinationals, are trying to promote their refrigerators as environment friendly refrigerators under the pretext of using ozone depleting substance-free technology. These companies are actually using hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) technology, which is responsible for global warming.

However the same manufacturers are producing refrigerators in European countries with hydrocarbon (HC) technology, which is ozone friendly as well as has negligible global warming potential. This is a clear case of double standards and Indian consumers are being taken for a ride. Multinational refrigerator manufacturer like LG, Samsung, Electrolux and Whirlpool, have

the capacity and know-how to produce and market HC-based refrigerators in India, as they have been doing so in other countries.

CUTS took up this issue and organised a protest rally in New Delhi on the occasion of Earth Day (22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2000). The aim of this rally was to hit these double standards and spreading awareness among the Indian people about the with the hope that such adverse publicity would help to foment change for better.

The rally was flagged off from Bangladesh high commission in Lajpat Nagar in New Delhi. A number of children along with social activists and volunteers participated in the rally with great interest, for saving the planet. The protestors were carrying banners and placards urging these companies to use environment friendly technologies. A very attractive exhibit was also accompanying the rally highlighting the issue of double standards.

An information kit prepared by CUTS was released on the occasion for informing press and people in general on various environment friendlier technologies. CUTS also submitted memorandums to the refrigerator manufacturers urging them to switch over to eco-friendly technologies.

**Source: The Ecofrig Revolution, Volume IV, Issue II, March-April 2000**

### **3)- HVAC Industry Should Anticipate Phaseout**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently warned that the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) industry should prepare for the future phaseout of hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC)-22. With most HVAC manufacturers currently using HCFC-22 in nearly all of the systems they build, future availability of HCFC-22 supplies could be scarce after EPA issues regulations concerning consumption of class II controlled substances.

Under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the U.S. must reduce the limit on the amount of HCFCs used nationwide by 35 percent by 2004. The U.S. has banned the use of HCFC-141b after January 1, 2003.

As of January 1, 2010, HCFC-22 will no longer be allowed for use in air conditioners (A/Cs) and heat pumps. By January 1, 2020, HVAC manufacturers will not be allowed to service A/Cs and heat pumps with HCFC-22. EPA said HVAC manufacturers can allay the fears of individuals who own HVAC systems with HCFC-22 by assuring them that HCFC-22 will be available for the next 20 years, and reclamation and recycling of HCFC- 22 may extend far beyond the phaseout date. The agency also noted that HCFC-22 is not expected to experience a major price increase, due to its long phaseout period and wide availability.

One refrigerant that is emerging as a replacement for HCFC-22 in many A/C and cooling equipment applications is R-410A, a hydrofluorocarbon. R-410A is manufactured under the tradenames AZ-20 and SUVA 9100. EPA said the chemical has a higher cooling capacity and lower toxicity than HCFC-22 and is considered nonflammable by Underwriter's Laboratory. EPA pointed out that HVAC technicians need to observe certain precautions when switching systems to R- 410A because the typical HCFC-22 compressor is not compatible with R-410A.

**Source: Environmental Support Solutions, Inc. 25/01/2000**

### **4)- Campaign Declares CFC-Free Inhalers Effective**

In an effort to reassure Australian's asthma sufferers about the new CFC-free medications available on the pharmaceutical benefits scheme, the National Asthma Campaign (NAC) declared that the new inhalers are just as effective as the polluting-kind.

According to NAC chairwoman, Christine Jenkins, the only difference is the type of propellant. The new CFC-free inhalers use an ozone-friendly propellant which the country adopted following the terms of the Montreal Protocol to phase out the use of CFCs.

"An important thing to note is that the taste and feel of the aerosol is very slightly different, but there is no difference in the effect of these preventer medications," said Jenkins. The NAC aims to ensure Australian asthma patients will not be confused by the recent change and will continue to use preventative medication, a vital part of asthma management.

**Source: AUSTRALIAN AP (EIN Publishing Search)**

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