

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & implementation of the Montreal Protocol compiled by: UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme, Paris

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## 1. Meeting focuses on ozone protection

West Asian and Middle Eastern ozone action officers began a review of the critical measures against ozone depleting substances (ODS) at the 'West Asia Network of Ozone Officers' Main Meeting' which opened yesterday at the Diplomat Hotel under the patronage of Minister of Municipalities and Environment, Jawad Al Arayed, in co-ordination with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and with the ministry's Environmental Affairs directorate as the lead support agency.

"The main purpose of such network meetings is to enable ozone officers to meet technical and policy experts to discuss various issues, identify problems and find solutions to the challenges all countries are facing," said Network Manager Geoffrey Tierney in his address at the opening session...

Yesterday, the ODS Officers presented their respective countries' compliance status on the implementation of the Montreal Protocol. Committees are also working on strategic planning and future compliance by countries in other areas concerning the MP and other issues related to protection of the ozone layer.

Meanwhile, World Environment Day activities in Bahrain yesterday focused on a massive public awareness campaign undertaken by the Ministry of Environment in co-ordination with other agencies such as the Traffic Directorate...

Full text @: <a href="http://www.bahraintribune.com/wed/local.asp?Art\_No=6802">http://www.bahraintribune.com/wed/local.asp?Art\_No=6802</a>

Source: Bahrain Tribune, 6 June 2001

## 2. Weather Pros: To Whom Do We Owe Zone?

If you didn't know: the now-famous "hole" in the earth's ozone layer was first discovered in 1979 following the launch of the "Nimbus 7" satellite, which obits space over our planet's polar regions.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of many scientists who designed and built the satellite, we now have a much clearer and LITERAL picture of ozone depletion and it's impact on us all.

Most people don't realize it, but ozone is actually a form of something that none of us could live without oxygen. However, normal oxygen molecules contain TWO atoms of oxygen, while ozone contains THREE - and it's that third atom that's the problem.

When too much ozone gas is inhaled by humans (city smog), they can die - and when you throw in the fact that ozone ALSO can cause the oxidation/break-down of everything from rubber to the destruction of food crops... well, you get the (Nimbus 7) picture, right?

The irony of it all, of course, is that just ENOUGH ozone is both natural and serves to protect us from the sun's most harmful rays, while TOO MUCH is deadly... and TOO LITTLE, on a global scale... is even worse.

**Source:** Yahoo Weather News, 04 June 2001

@: http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/wni/20010604/we/weather\_pros\_to\_whom\_do\_we\_owe\_zone\_\_1.html

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