

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. Sri Lanka Committed to Phase out Ozone Depleting Substances

Sri Lanka is committed to phase out ozone depleting substances and the country has set targets to meet the international deadline five years prior to the set date, Minister of Forestry and Environment Mahinda Wijesekera said... According to him the Ministry's Montreal Protocol Unit, established with the aim of implementing the necessary programs to meet international targets of cutting down ozone depleting substances, has been quite successful in introducing several initiatives to meet with the unit's objectives. These include, the implementation of a country studies program to ascertain details on imports, usages- in the refrigeration and air-conditioning industries, the key sector utilizing CFCs and other substances - provision of recycle equipment, conducting of workshops and seminars to create awareness and the introduction of alternative procedures. Measures were also taken to introduce CFC free technology alternatives to the three main refrigeration factories in the country, manufacturing about 30,000 units of domestic refrigeration and freezers, he said. He said, Sri Lanka was able to utilise funding made available through the International Multilateral Fund to introduce measures to eliminate CFC-11 and CFC-12 in these factories. In addition, measures have also been taken to charge compressors with HFC 134 and to use HCFC 141b for the form blowing process. "Through these initiatives conducted in consultations with the United Nations Development Program Sri Lanka has been able to save the release of 20 tonnes of CFCs annually," he said.

Full Text @: http://blazer.lanka.net/lakehouse/2001/06/30/new18.html

Source: Lanka Internet Service, Daily News, 30 June 2001, by Tharika Goonathilake

2. Ice System is so Hot, Exelon Opts to Cool it

Downtown Chicagoans sure like their ice conditioning.

Building owners in the Loop have embraced the technology that uses ice to keep their high-rise buildings cool all summer long--so much that Exelon Thermal Technologies, a sister company to Commonwealth Edison, said it can't take on any newer customers, and will consider building a fifth downtown plant.

The company built its first cooling plant six years ago, as an alternative to air-conditioning that emitted ozone-depleting chemicals. Many buildings have their own chillers, but developers who don't want to spend the thousands of dollars to install them can opt to buy the ice service.

The so-called "ice conditioning" method melts millions of pounds of ice and pipes the cool water to buildings. The decision to construct another plant, which could take eight to 14 months to build, won't be made until after summer...

Full Text @: http://www.suntimes.com/output/business/cst-fin-cool03.html

Source: Chicago Sun-Times, 3 July 2001, by: Tammy Williamson Business Reporter

3. Sun Exposure, Risks are High

The sun is more intense these days due to a depleting ozone layer, and burning is something to contend with whenever outside

In 1980, an American's risk of getting melanoma in a lifetime was one in 250. In 1999, it was one in 74. Each year, 1 million Americans -- of all ages and ethnic origins -- get skin cancer. Nine of 10 skin cancers develop on exposed areas, such as the face, ears, forearms, and hands, reports the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD). Skin cancer's most deadly form, melanoma, kills close to one American every hour, or 8,000 people a year. But these statistics don't mean you have to live like a monk. You can still read out on the deck and take the kids to the beach -- if you first take time to safeguard your skin... As important as SPF is the range of the sunscreen. Much like a radio, the sun sends out two different frequencies that damage skin: ultraviolet A and ultraviolet B rays. UV-A

rays penetrate deeper into the skin and are blamed for aging, spotting, and crinkling. The shorter UV-B rays burn and blister your skin's outer layers. Either length can lead to skin cancer...

Full Text @: http://www.bhg.com/bhg/story.ihtml?page=1&storyid=%2Ftemplatedata%2Fbhg%2Fstory%2Fdata%2F12936.xml&catref=S7

Source: Better Homes & Gardens, July 2001

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