

# OZONews

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## Table of Contents:

- 1- **NASA Unfolds Mystery: Relation Between Hydrogen and Ozone Depletion**
  - 2- **Organic Growers Get Helping Hand: Avoiding Use of Methyl Bromide (New Zealand)**
  - 3- **Farewell, Fridge Mountain (Czech Republic)**
  - 4- **Canadian Company Charged for Importation of Products Containing ODS**
  - 5- **EU to Fund Organic Pest Control Project in Ethiopia**
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## **1- NASA Unfolds Mystery: Relation Between Hydrogen and Ozone Depletion**

... "Scientists have unraveled a mystery about hydrogen peroxide that may lead to a more accurate way of measuring a gas that contributes to depletion of Earth's protective ozone layer. Scientists have long known that reactive hydrogen gases destroy stratospheric ozone ... Ideally, atmospheric scientists would like to make global maps of the distribution of these gases, because there is increasing concern that their abundances may be rising due to increases in stratospheric humidity. These gases - comprising hydroxyl (OH) and hydroperoxyl (HO<sub>2</sub>) -- cannot be easily measured from space, but a product of their reaction, hydrogen peroxide, is detectable. However, a large, nagging discrepancy has existed between computer models of hydrogen peroxide abundance and actual atmospheric measurements, suggesting that a complete understanding of the chemistry has been lacking. Now scientists ... have resolved much of this disparity. The results could ultimately allow concentrations of reactive hydrogen gas to be inferred by monitoring hydrogen peroxide from space or the ground ... Dr. Ross Salawitch, an atmospheric chemist at JPL and a co-author of the study, said the research has important implications for future studies of ozone depletion. "The majority of observed ozone depletion over the past two decades was caused by the buildup of industrially-produced chlorofluorocarbons, he said. "As a result of the worldwide ban on chlorofluorocarbon production, Earth's atmosphere will cleanse itself of these gases over the next 50 to 100 years. Recently, however, scientists have become increasingly concerned that changes in Earth's climate could lead to increased levels of water in the stratosphere. This could lead to additional ozone depletion by reactive hydrogen gases, which are a byproduct of water. Our study addresses this concern, allowing scientists to monitor this process in the future." ...

**Full text @:** <http://spaceflightnow.com/news/n0205/10ozone/>

**Source:** NASA/JPL News Release, May 10, 2002

## **2- Organic Growers Get Helping Hand: Avoiding Use of Methyl Bromide (New Zealand)**

Growers of main crop kiwifruit will subsidise returns to organic producers by up to 50c a tray for their first-class organic fruit for two years ... Organic kiwifruit has been New Zealand's biggest and most successful organic export. Growers have attracted premiums in past years in the high-paying Japanese market that well compensated them for orchard production generally 2000 trays a hectare lower than their conventional counterparts. But in October 2000 law changes in Japan meant organic fruit that was fumigated for pests could not be sold as organic. Premiums of up to \$3 a tray over conventional kiwifruit withered as organic growers struggled to rid their fruit of pests. Japanese quarantine authorities fumigated shipments with methyl bromide. The high cost of fumigation, which shortens the storage life of the fruit, is paid by growers ... Organic growers were aiming for better pest control in their orchards, and packhouses were taking extra measures to check for insects ... Zespri was paying for research of fumigants which allowed the fruit to maintain its organic status, and was acceptable to the Japanese. Ozone-depleting methyl bromide is also due to be phased out [in developed countries] by 2005 ...

**Article @:** <http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=1843614&thesection=business&thesubsection=agriculture>

**Source:** New Zealand Herald, 06 May 2002, By Philippa Stevenson

## **3- Farewell, Fridge Mountain (Czech Republic)**

... For four years, a pile of discarded refrigerators large enough to appear in satellite photos has languished on the outskirts of Kacov, central Bohemia ... As the old appliances deteriorated on the site, about 50 kilometers (31 miles) south of Prague, environmental groups began demanding their removal, warning they could release CFCs, linked to ozone depletion ... On April 17, a handful of haulers began chipping away at the rusty mound. Removing some 600 appliances daily, they have so far packed more than 7,000 units into containers bound for a recycling plant in Liberec, north Bohemia. By the end of May, the pile of 84 different brands of obsolete appliances will be gone ... Many of the machines date from the 1970s, but some have been around for half a century. Tyce says that there's little chance anything could be inside the units. "They're too tightly packed for anything to get in," he explained. In Liberec, the

fridges will be separated into recyclable components -- steel, iron, insulation, Freon and oil. Once the appliances are completely removed, Rethmann Jerala will take soil samples to check the land for contaminants. If leakage is found, the company will replace the soil. Then the site will become a field again ...

**Article @:** <http://www.praguepost.com/P02/2002/20508/news4.php>

**Source:** The Prague Post Online, 08 May 2002, By: Kate Swoger

#### **4- Canadian Company Charged for Importation of Products Containing ODS**

Canadian Tire Corporation made an appearance on Friday May 3rd in the Ontario Court of Justice, Brampton to respond to a total of eleven charges under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. It is alleged that the company illegally imported two products containing substances which are controlled under the "Ozone Depleting Substances Regulations, 1998". One product, rear view mirror attachment kits, contained the chemical 1,1, 1-trichloroethane. The second product, bar refrigerators, contained dichlorodifluoromethane. Restricting the import of products which contain ozone depleting substances is necessary to reduce the stock of products in use in Canada and contribute to reducing overall domestic dependence on substances harmful to the environment. The matter was put over until Friday June 7, 2002 in Brampton. Contravention of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act can result in a fine up to a maximum of \$300,000 for a first offence. The charges were laid by Environment Canada after an investigation by the Ontario Regional Office of Environment Canada's Environmental Protection Branch.

**Article @:** <http://www.stockhouse.com/news/news.asp?tick=CTR.A&newsid=1162430>

**Source:** The Stockhouse, Market News Publishing Inc. , 07 May 2002,

#### **5- EU to Fund Organic Pest Control Project in Ethiopia**

... Millions of farmers in the north of the country are expected to benefit from the scheme, which was set up by Save the Children Fund UK (SC-UK). The three-year project, which uses naturally-found, environmentally friendly pesticides rather than chemicals, has won plaudits worldwide ... Under the scheme - known as Integrated Pest Management - SC-UK has been teaching farmers in rural areas how to use natural pesticides to control pests and improve soil fertility. These include fermented cow's urine and sisal juice, which have proved to be very effective against pests like the endemic bush cricket. Juice from wild onions drives away rodents, and plants like the crocodile climber kill weevils, which attack stored grains. In all, 15 pests and plant diseases which normally ravage crops have been brought under control by applying local, environmentally friendly alternative methods. Local farmers have hailed the pilot scheme - which was adopted over nine months in several rural villages of Amhara region - as a success. Agriculture officials in Amhara now plan to develop the programme across the whole region - after SC-UK received the financial go-ahead from the EU. John Graham, head of SC-UK in Ethiopia, told IRIN the idea was to use this successful model "and to scale it up across the entire Amhara region". "This will equip the Bureau of Agriculture to be able to develop its own farmers' field schools and to conduct integrated pest management throughout the region," he said. The total population of the region is about 18 million, of whom some 90 percent are dependent on subsistence agriculture. "It is fair to say that millions of people could benefit from this," Graham added. "This is something that could go countrywide in Ethiopia particularly with the concerns that are being expressed regarding chemical pesticides."

**Article @:** [http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=27489&SelectRegion=Horn\\_of\\_Africa&SelectCountry=ETHIOPIA](http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=27489&SelectRegion=Horn_of_Africa&SelectCountry=ETHIOPIA)

**Source:** IRIN News, 26 April 2002

**OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:**

<http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/compliance/ozonews/main.html>

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