

OzoNews

A fortnightly electronic news update on ozone and climate protection and the implementation of the Montreal Protocol brought to you by OzonAction

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GLOBAL

1. Save the date: 9 September 2025 - Enhancing Environmental Oversight in Trade: A Focus on Free Trade Zones, Trans-shipment and MEA Obligations



This webinar takes a keen focus on the information note on “[Free Trade Zones, Trans-shipment and Multilateral Environmental Agreements](#)” which highlights how Free Trade Zones (FTZs) and trans-shipment operations can complicate the tracking of environmentally sensitive commodities, making it difficult to monitor and enforce environmental and trade-related laws. It underscores the need

for robust monitoring, improved customs procedures, and inter-agency cooperation to ensure compliance with MEAs. This webinar will explore how countries can strengthen their legal and institutional frameworks governing trade in FTZs, transit, and trans-shipment contexts, while mitigating environmental risks...

Please find more details about the event on the [Event Webpage](#)

Source: [UNEP](#), August 2025 | Image: Unsplash/Venti Views

COMING SOON – WORLD OZONE DAY – 16 SEPTEMBER 2025



Forty years ago, nations came together under the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and agreed to take appropriate measures to protect people and the planet from harmful UV radiation pouring through a

potentially damaged ozone layer. [Continue reading...](#)

Source/image: [Ozone Secretariat](#)

2. High-altitude observations confirm stratospheric source of toxic groundwater contaminant



The view from inside the cockpit of NASA's WB57 research aircraft, during a SABRE mission research flight on March 5, 2023. Credit: NASA

New findings serve as a reminder that the stratosphere is not fully understood

A new study led by NOAA Research has confirmed that a substantial amount of groundwater contamination

caused by perchlorates, a class of toxic chlorine-based chemicals, originates in a surprising place – the stratosphere. The study, led by researchers at NOAA's [Chemical Sciences Laboratory](#) (CSL) and published in the journal [Proceedings of the National Academies of Science](#), provides new

evidence linking perchlorate formation to tiny airborne particles (aerosols) in the stratosphere, the layer of the atmosphere 7 to 30 miles above Earth's surface.

The study analyzed detailed aerosol chemical measurements collected from high-altitude research aircraft in the lower stratosphere, where the vast majority of particles in the thin air are made of sulfur dioxide. But the scientists found perchlorates were almost entirely bound to aerosol particles originating from biomass burning and nitrogen-rich sources, which are transported into the stratosphere by atmospheric circulation and by towering plumes of wildfire smoke. While these particles make up only a small fraction of the total stratospheric aerosol population, they carry nearly all of its perchlorate load.

"This was a real surprise," said lead author Daniel Murphy, who heads CSL's Aerosol Properties & Processes research program. "We found that perchlorate avoids the most common stratospheric aerosol particles, which are mostly sulfuric acid. Instead, it clings to particles with more organic content and less acidity—like those from wildfires."

What is perchlorate?

Perchlorates, which are used in products such as rocket propellant, explosives, fireworks, batteries and automobile airbags, are known to disrupt thyroid function in humans. The precursor chlorine compounds that later form perchlorate originate from surface sources. Although some localized groundwater perchlorate contamination is the result of industrial pollution, past analyses of groundwater and snow samples have determined that most of the perchlorate at the surface was deposited after being formed in the atmosphere. Scientists had suspected a stratospheric source because of the presence of a tell-tale chlorine atom isotope (^{36}Cl) in those samples. Their suspicion was bolstered by the observed trend of increasing perchlorate concentrations identified in snow from both Greenland and Antarctica that closely tracked [increases in stratospheric chlorine](#) from chemicals including chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). CFCs were used as refrigerants and foam-blowing agents from the 1960s to 1990s, and were ultimately found to be the cause of the Antarctic ozone hole. The current study provides the first direct observations confirming that hypothesis.

Because the perchlorates are attached to particles, rather than persisting as a gas, they fall to the surface through gravitational settling and precipitation. Once at the surface, perchlorates are astonishingly long-lived, particularly in arid regions where they can build up over thousands of years.

"This study highlights that [controls on CFCs by the Montreal Protocol](#), which were implemented because of the depletion of the ozone layer by chlorinated compounds, are preventing further perchlorate groundwater pollution," said CSL Director David Fahey, a Co-chair of the Scientific Advisory Panel for the Montreal Protocol.

Science in the stratosphere

The new research draws on data collected from three major airborne missions: [SABRE](#) (Stratospheric Aerosol processes, Budget and Radiative Effects), [DCOTSS](#) (Dynamics and Chemistry of the Summer Stratosphere), and [ATom](#) (Atmospheric Tomography Mission), which were conducted between 2016 and 2024. Direct measurements were taken by an aerosol mass spectrometer called [PALMS](#), which analyzed the composition of hundreds of thousands of individual aerosol particles during research flights that sampled the atmosphere from the surface to the stratosphere in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres during multiple seasons.

The strongest perchlorate signals came from the stratosphere, especially in the mid- to high-latitudes, with more elevated levels observed in the Southern Hemisphere than the Northern Hemisphere. Despite abundant biomass burning and other less-acidic particle types near the surface, the researchers found virtually no perchlorate formation in the lower atmosphere.

More to learn

Murphy said detailed laboratory studies will be needed to answer many of the open questions about the exact chemical mechanism at work. It has yet to be determined, for example, whether these particles attract perchlorate that has already been formed in the atmosphere, or if perchlorate forms on their surfaces due to chemical reactions occurring in the stratosphere, as scientists suspect.

If perchlorates form directly on aerosol surfaces, it would imply that adding particles other than sulfuric acid to the stratosphere, either intentionally or unintentionally, could result in increased perchlorate production and subsequent deposition on the ground.

This would potentially have implications for climate intervention methods like stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI), which proposes injecting additional aerosols into the stratosphere to reflect sunlight and cool the planet. If perchlorate forms more easily on non-acidic particles, as this study suggests, then climate-driven increases in large wildfires or the use of light-reflecting particles like calcium carbonate might inadvertently increase perchlorate contamination.

“There’s a real caution here for things like SAI,” said Murphy. “Perchlorate is a reminder that stratospheric chemistry is not fully understood, and that manipulating it could bring unexpected consequences.”

For more information, contact Theo Stein, NOAA Communications: theo.stein@noaa.gov.

Source/image: [NOAA Research](#), 5 August 2025

3. Policy Workshop Report: The Montreal Moment

On **5 and 6 June 2025**, the RIAS, in collaboration with “Pathways to Sustainability,” one of the strategic themes of Utrecht University, hosted a policy workshop titled “**The Montreal Moment: Ozone Depletion and the Rise of International Environmental Governance**.” The workshop brought together historians, policy practitioners, and climate governance experts to examine the legacy of the **1987 Montreal Protocol** as a pivotal moment in **global environmental policy** and cooperation.

Framed around the question of how the Montreal Protocol emerged, functioned, and continues to resonate today, the event explored the deeper institutional, diplomatic, and cultural dynamics that underpin environmental governance. By tracing the genealogy of the Montreal Protocol, participants reflected on the shifting narratives of responsibility, leadership, and legitimacy, connecting past environmental successes to the more complex and fragmented climate landscape of today.

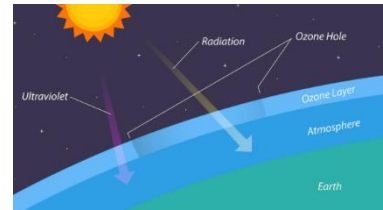
The first roundtable focused on **contemporary challenges in international climate diplomacy**. Policy professionals from the **Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, **Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF)**, and the **Canadian Embassy in the Netherlands** shared insights into the tensions between domestic interests and international obligations, the difficulties of building trust, and the trade-offs between binding commitments and flexible agreements. Key themes included feminist foreign policy, indigenous participation in Arctic governance, the political implications of emerging technologies like hydrogen energy, and the inner workings of climate diplomacy. A

recurring concern was the credibility of multilateralism in an age of competing political ideologies. Participants emphasized the need for pragmatic, inclusive approaches to climate action that balance ambition with realistic pathways for implementation. [Continue reading...](#)

Source/image: [Roosevelt Institute for American Studies](#)

4. Back in the ozone: How we plugged the hole in the sky

If we could do it once, we can do it again, whether it's climate change, biodiversity loss, or the plastic in our oceans. We once had a hole in the sky — now we have a blueprint for how to mend the planet. And that, in anyone's book, is a good news story



Once upon a time, well in the 1980s, the world looked up and discovered we'd poked a hole in the sky. Not metaphorically, not in some sci-fi dystopia, but literally, a yawning gap in Earth's ozone layer — the invisible shield that protects us from the Sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays. And the culprit wasn't alien invaders or a rogue comet, but something far more mundane: hairspray, fridges, and air-conditioners.

The hole over Antarctica quickly became a potent symbol of human overreach. Scientists had been warning since the 1970s that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), the miracle chemicals that made spray-on deodorant, whipped cream in a can, and frost-free freezers possible, could destroy ozone molecules in the upper atmosphere. But it wasn't until 1985, when British scientists Joe Farman, Brian Gardiner, and Jonathan Shanklin published shocking measurements from Antarctica that it was fully apparent. The data showed a massive seasonal depletion of ozone each spring.

The problem was simple chemistry, though with catastrophic implications: CFCs drifted up to the stratosphere, where intense UV light broke them apart, releasing chlorine atoms that shredded ozone molecules like confetti. Less ozone meant more UV radiation reaching Earth's surface, increasing the risk of skin cancer, cataracts, crop damage, and who knows what else.

A rare plot twist

In environmental stories, the plot often goes like this: scientists warn, politicians dither, lobbyists stall, and the problem worsens. But the ozone saga took a refreshingly different turn. The images of the gaping hole and the undeniable science spurred action. Just two years after the Antarctic discovery, the world signed the Montreal Protocol in 1987, which is a global agreement to phase out ozone-destroying substances. It remains the most successful environmental treaty in history, with every single United Nations member country signed on.

Industry initially grumbled (of course), warning of costs and inconvenience, but quickly pivoted to invent safer alternatives. The chemical companies that had made fortunes from CFCs soon made fortunes from the replacements. It was, in its way, capitalism at its most adaptable.

The long, slow healing

Fixing the ozone hole was never going to be instant. CFCs are stubborn chemicals, hanging around in the atmosphere for 50 to 100 years. Even after production stopped, the stockpiles we'd already released were still floating upwards to do their damage. The ozone layer, battered for decades, needed time to recover. [Continue reading...](#)

Source/image: [Irish Examiner](#), 15 August 2025

5. World Cold Chain Symposium – Save the date | November 1 | Nairobi, Kenya

Advancing a sustainable cold chain requires coordinated efforts from a broad range of stakeholders. Governments and non-profit organizations play a critical role in identifying and highlighting pilot projects, and industry engagement is essential to help build business models and drive long-term market growth. With this in mind, the theme for this year's World Cold Chain Symposium is Energizing the Private Sector.

Join the [Global Food Cold Chain Council](#), the [United Nations Environment Program's OzonAction](#), the [Cool Coalition](#), [Carrier](#) and experts from around the world as we come together for an in-person and virtual event focused on the benefits of investing in efficient, sustainable cold chain development programs and highlighting the progress to date.



6. 2025 COPA Compendium

The COPA compendium 2025 provides an overview and links to all publications, activities and resources developed by COPA between July 2021 and 2025 in an interactive pdf file.

The Climate and Ozone Protection Alliance was initiated by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action in 2021, to pave the way for an enhanced environmental stewardship of ODS and HFCs. By bringing attention to the need of proper management and disposal of gases and foams in old cooling appliances, COPA pointed a light at the challenge from the start. In July 2025, COPA has evolved into a global member-driven coalition with an elected steering committee, continuing to enable its member-organisations and countries to work together to accelerate the needed shift to sustainable refrigerant management.



The COPA compendium 2025 is the results of the collective efforts of COPA members and experts during the first four years of the alliance. It is set-up as an interactive pdf to enable members and interested to easy access all the COPA activities, publications and resources provided up to now. It is available on the COPA Resource page and also directly at the link below.

Note, you need to download the pdf and open it locally to access all interactive functions.

Source/image: [COPA](#), August 2025

AFRICA

7. Govt reaffirms commitment to eliminating ozone-depleting substances – Nigeria

The Federal Government through the Ozone Office of the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMOE) has reaffirmed its commitment to phasing out ozone-depleting substances by expanding training and certification programmes for refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) technicians nationwide.



The training was organised by the Ozone Office of the FMOE in partnership with the Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development (SRADeV Nigeria) with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Speaking during the training session at Cool Plus Training Centre, Lagos, the Director/National Ozone Officer, Mr. Idris Abdullahi, highlighted Nigeria's steady

progress under the Multilateral Fund-supported Hydrochlorofluorocarbons Phase-Out Management Plan (HPMP) Stage II Project.

Represented by Mr. Nurudeen Mahmud, Assistant Chief Chemical Engineer, Ozone Office, Abdullahi said the RAC sector remained a key focus, as hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) – especially HCFC-22 – widely used as refrigerants in the servicing of cooling equipment.

According to him, the Federal Government is promoting a transition to hydrocarbon refrigerants, which are ozone- and climate-friendly alternatives to HCFCs.

He, however, emphasised that the safe handling and professional certification of technicians were critical due to their flammable nature.

"With support from the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol and in collaboration with UNDP, we have upgraded over 20 training centres nationwide – including in Lagos, Port Harcourt, and Kano – with modern tools and equipment.

"This is to enable us to train and certify RAC technicians on the safe use of hydrocarbon refrigerants," Abdullahi said.

He noted that only technicians who meet professional and safety standards would be certified. He said the training was designed to reduce fire hazards, ensure compliance with international standards, and strengthen Nigeria's transition to environmentally sustainable cooling solutions. He reaffirmed the ministry's long-standing partnership with the National Association of Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Practitioners (NARAP) and local collaborators such as SRADeV Nigeria.

He added that the cooperation between government, private sector, and professional associations remains vital to achieving Nigeria's obligations under multilateral environmental agreements. [Continue reading...](#)

Source/image: [EnviroNews Nigeria](#), 18 August 2025

8. National Ozone Unit adopts digital single window system to curb corruption and modernise trade - Zimbabwe

THE National Ozone Unit has adopted the electronic single window system (ESWS), a digital platform that streamlines import and export procedures while tightening controls on harmful substances, in a move aimed at curbing corruption and modernising trade processes.

The ESWS allows traders to submit all regulatory documents for import, export and transit operations through a single digital entry point, reducing red tape, human interference and opportunities for corruption.

Speaking on the sidelines of an awareness workshop in Kadoma, National Ozone Unit's project manager, Mr George Chaumba, said the digital system will replace the outdated manual process used to issue permits for ozone-depleting substances.

"The Montreal Protocol specifies that all countries should establish and implement a licensing system for the control and monitoring of these substances that deplete the ozone layer and contribute to global warming," he said.

Previously, traders were required to physically visit offices to apply for permits, a process prone to delays and manipulation. With the new system, applications will now be handled electronically and integrated with customs licensing systems, eliminating unnecessary paperwork.

Mr Chaumba said the new system will go a long way in promoting efficiency and transparency.

"This system is meant to overcome a number of challenges and reduce the time taken to acquire a license. It will go a long way in enhancing our data collection as we will be aware of the types and quantities of appliances being imported," he said.

Mr Chaumba said appliances such as refrigerators, air conditioners, water coolers, bottle coolers, ice-making machines and refrigerated trucks often contain chemicals that harm the ozone layer. Most of these are imported, making regulatory oversight crucial.

Mr Tayana Chidzvondo, a member of the implementation team for ESWS, said the system was developed by the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (Zimra) to digitise and unify import-export functions across the Government.

"The goal is to ensure all relevant departments, from health to radiation protection, work from a shared platform. This centralises licensing, payments and processing, making everything more efficient and less susceptible to abuse," he said.

Mr Chidzvondo said the ESWS is already in use at several ministries, including the Ministry of Health and Child Care and the Radiation Protection Authority of Zimbabwe, and is now ready for rollout to the National Ozone Unit.

Source/image: [Chronicle](#), 21 July 2025

9. Egypt Sets Clear HFC Phase-Down Commitments in Line with Kigali Amendment



Egypt outlines a structured HFC phase-down roadmap at OEWG-47, reinforcing its commitment to Kigali targets and sustainable refrigeration practices.

As part of its obligations under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, Egypt has officially announced a series of national commitments to phase down the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) across key sectors. These commitments mark a significant step forward in the country's efforts to transition toward low-global-warming-potential (GWP) alternatives and promote sustainable refrigeration and air conditioning practices.

Sector-Specific Phase-Out Deadlines

Egypt's national strategy outlines the following deadlines for the phase-out of HFCs:

- Polyurethane foams using HFC-245fa and HFC-365mfc:
 - To be phased out by 1 January 2028
- Extruded polystyrene (XPS) foams using HFC-152a:

- To be phased out by 1 January 2028
 - Domestic refrigerators using HFCs:
- To be phased out by 1 January 2029
 - Standalone commercial refrigeration equipment using HFCs:
- To be phased out by 1 January 2029
 - Residential air-conditioning units using R-410A:
- To be phased out by 1 January 2029

These measures are aligned with Egypt's broader climate and environmental goals and are expected to contribute significantly to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the cooling sector.

Collaboration and Implementation

Successful implementation will require continued collaboration between government agencies, industry stakeholders, and international partners. The IIR remains committed to supporting its members through the dissemination of technical knowledge, best practices, and training resources to facilitate this transition.

Source/image: [IIR](#), 30 July 2025

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

10. Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act: Key Takeaways from R410a Fines - Australia

Latest Update: AUD 18,780 Fines for Illegally Importing Equipment Containing the R410a Refrigerant

The **Australian government** is intensifying its regulation of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and synthetic greenhouse gases (SGGs) to fulfill international environmental commitments and address the threat of climate change. In a recent case, a company was heavily fined for importing equipment containing prohibited greenhouse gases without a license, demonstrating the government's commitment to regulatory enforcement.

In a recent announcement, the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (**DCCEEW**) stated that, under the **Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989**, a company was fined AUD 18,780 for illegally importing equipment containing the R410a refrigerant.

R410a, being chlorine-free and non-ozone-depleting, was initially adopted as a replacement for earlier chlorine-containing refrigerants such as R-22. However, it has a high Global Warming Potential (GWP), and its release into the atmosphere significantly contributes to the greenhouse effect.

This case exemplifies the government's strict enforcement of regulations, controlling the import of restricted substances, and mitigating environmental risks.

DCCEEW has established a cooperative mechanism with Australian Customs to conduct joint inspections of inbound goods, ensuring that business entities operate in compliance. This penalty serves as a precedent for regulatory enforcement, further reinforcing the government's stance on upholding the authority of environmental regulations.

Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989

Australia's Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989 is the country's primary legislation aimed at protecting the ozone layer and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

The main objective of this Act is to regulate ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and synthetic greenhouse gases (SGGs). It aims to fulfill Australia's international obligations under the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol.

Through this Act and related regulations, the Australian government has implemented the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Program, which uses permits, quotas, industry management, and economic measures to comprehensively control the manufacture, import, export, use and disposal of harmful gases that affect the ozone layer and climate.

DCCEEW is responsible for issuing permits to major users of these gases, including businesses and technicians. It is illegal for any company or individual to manufacture, import, or export "Scheduled Substances" or related equipment specified under the Act without obtaining the necessary permits.

What are "Scheduled Substances"?

Scheduled Substances are those strictly regulated under the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989. These substances are primarily divided into two categories: ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and synthetic greenhouse gases (SGGs).

All these "[Scheduled Substances](#)" are subject to strict controls on their import, manufacture, export, use, and disposal to ensure that Australia meets its commitments under international environmental agreements.

Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS)

These substances are regulated because they deplete the stratospheric ozone layer. They are being phased out under the Montreal Protocol. Key examples include:

- Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs): Examples include CFC-11 and CFC-12, previously used in refrigerators, air conditioners, and aerosol sprays.
- Halons: Examples include Halon 1211 and Halon 1301, mainly used in fire suppression systems.
- Carbon Tetrachloride: Previously used as a solvent.
- Methyl Chloroform: Previously used as an industrial solvent.
- Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs): Transitional substitutes for CFCs, mainly used in air conditioning and refrigeration systems, such as HCFC-22 (R22), but now also being phased out.
- Methyl Bromide: A fumigant used in agriculture and quarantine. [Continue reading...](#)

11. Ozone layer protection gains momentum in the Pacific

Fiji is strengthening its leadership in climate action by enforcing ozone protection measures and phasing out harmful substances.

Minister for Environment and Climate Change Mosese Bulitavu outlined Fiji's commitment to the Kigali Amendment and efforts to reduce ozone-depleting substances.

He said the country has a robust system regulating imports and exports of controlled substances, developed with border agencies and guided by standard operating procedures.

"Fiji has established a robust system for regulating imports and exports of controlled substance through collaboration with our border control agencies by co-creating standard operating procedures to guide the process."

Bulitavu noted that imports of hydrochlorofluorocarbons have steadily declined since 2010, thanks to partnership with government ministries, the private sector, communities, and regional partners.

He added that Fiji's strong enforcement framework and training programs have positioned the country as a regional leader in climate action.

UNEP Deputy Director Elizabeth Mrema stressed that protecting the ozone layer prevents millions of skin cancer cases globally and contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 3 on health and well-being.

"By protecting the ozone layer, it prevents an estimated two million cases of skin cancer every year. And thus, it supports Sustainable Development Goal 3, which is on good health and well-being."

Both leaders emphasized that the Montreal Protocol is not just an ozone treaty but a climate treaty, with partnership key to reducing warming and safeguarding the planet for future generations.

Source/image: [FBC News](#), 29 August 2025

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

12. Environment Agency issues F-gas fines totalling £167,400 – United Kingdom

UK: The Environment Agency has reported seven more cases of violations of the UK F-gas regulation totalling £167,400.

Six of the cases, which attracted fines ranging from £2,000 to £42,000, relate to failures in obtaining sufficient F-gas quota authorisations. The other relates to placing non-refillable F-gas cylinders on the market.



While the Environment Agency does not publish the dates of these fines, they would all have been imposed at least 12 months ago.

The companies involved in the quota violations were issued with the civil penalty under regulation 31A of the Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No.310) (as amended) for failing to obtain sufficient HFC

quota authorisations before placing HFCs on the market within Great Britain (GB), contrary to Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 517/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on fluorinated greenhouse gases.

Source: [Cooling Post](#), 2 July 2025

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

13. Cuban cays hotels protect ozone layer



Ciego de Avila, Cuba, Aug 6 (Prensa Latina) The replacement of refrigeration and climate equipment that uses gases harmful to the ozone layer is now a challenge for the hoteliers of the tourist destination Jardines del Rey, in the north Cuban cays chain.

Four hotels in the tourist region of Ciego de Ávila opt for the Free Recognition of Ozone Depleting Substances, certification granted by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (Citma) to meet the parameters set for this.

The environmental specialist of Citma in the territory, Livia Polín, highlighted the commitment of workers and managers of Ciego de Avila tourist entities to replace equipment using hydrochlorofluorocarbons and hydrofluorocarbons.

Among the hotels seeking recognition were Iberostar Origin Playa Pilar and Grand Muthu Imperial, located in Cayo Guillermo, the Grand Aston Cayo Paredón and the Hotel Sol Cayo Coco, the latter also linked to the International Sustainable Tourism Project.

Also opting for this recognition is the entity of Almacenes Universales S. A, whose staff is committed to the protection of the environment, highlighted Polín. She added that these entities have replaced refrigeration and air-conditioning systems with environmentally friendly equipment to benefit the ozone layer, enabling Cuba to gain progress in its compliance with the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment, global agreements to preserve this natural shield of the planet and mitigate global warming.

Source/image: [Prensa Latina](#), 6 August 2025

14. Dominica hosts national symposium on the implementation of the Kigali amendment



Hon. Cozier Frederick addresses stakeholders

The National Ozone Unit (NOU) successfully hosted a **National Symposium on the Implementation of the Kigali Amendment** on **August 13, 2025**, at the **St. Alphonsus Parish Hall**, bringing together key stakeholders in the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC) sector to discuss Dominica's pathway toward a sustainable and climate-friendly transition.

The event featured presentations by the **Honourable Minister of Environment, Mr. Cozier Frederick**, the **National Ozone Officer, Mrs. Sophia Anselm-Larocque**, and Legislative Consultants **Ms. Annika Bellot** and **Ms. Carlita Benjamin**. The symposium was attended by RAC technicians,

importers, and representatives of various government departments, reflecting the wide cross-section of stakeholders critical to advancing Dominica's environmental commitments.

The Montreal Protocol, established in 1987, is a landmark global agreement aimed at protecting the ozone layer by phasing out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS). It is regarded as one of the most successful environmental treaties in history, having achieved near-universal ratification and significant reductions in ODS emissions worldwide.

Building on this success, the **Kigali Amendment**, adopted in 2016, addresses the phase-down of **hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)**—potent greenhouse gases widely used in refrigeration, air conditioning, and foam products. While HFCs do not deplete the ozone layer, their high global warming potential makes them a significant driver of climate change. Through the Kigali Amendment, parties to the Montreal Protocol have committed to gradually reducing HFC consumption and transitioning to more energy-efficient and climate-friendly alternatives.

For Dominica, the Kigali Amendment offers opportunities to adopt cleaner, more energy-efficient technologies while fulfilling international commitments and strengthening national climate resilience. The symposium highlighted the importance of updating legislation, building technical capacity, and strengthening collaboration across the RAC industry to ensure a smooth transition.

The Hon. Minister emphasized the Government of Dominica's continued commitment to meeting its international obligations under the Montreal Protocol, while ensuring that the RAC sector is equipped with the skills and resources needed for the future. In her presentation, Mrs. Anselm-Larocque emphasized that the move away from HFCs will help Dominica reduce emissions, lower energy costs, and increase climate resilience.

"Dominica is committed to protecting our ozone layer and climate while ensuring that our people and businesses benefit from modern, efficient technologies," said the Honourable Minister of Environment. **"The Kigali Amendment is not just an environmental obligation—it is an opportunity for sustainable growth."**

National Ozone Officer **Mrs. Sophia Anselm-Larocque** added: **"Our technicians and importers are at the frontline of this transition. By equipping them with the right skills and information, Dominica can successfully move toward climate-friendly refrigerants and secure long-term benefits for our economy and environment."**

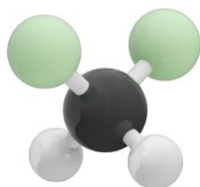
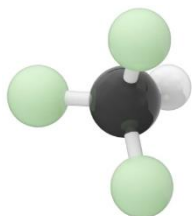
The symposium marks a key step in Dominica's journey under the Kigali Amendment, ensuring that national stakeholders are equipped to play their part in protecting both the ozone layer and the global climate.

The NOU and the Ministry of Environment, Rural Modernization, Kalinago Upliftment and Constituency Empowerment extends its gratitude to all participants and stakeholders for their active engagement in this important initiative.

Source/image: [Dominica News Online](#), 27 August 2025

NORTH AMERICA

15. EPA confirms renewed allowances for HFC use



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalised a rule to extend limited access to hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) for key fire suppression and other critical applications.

According to the EPA, this marks the first mandatory five-year review of application-specific allowances (ASAs), which are now renewed through 2030.

The agency stated that the allowances will support continued access to HFCs across sectors where alternatives are not yet available.

It confirmed that the decision affects health, defence, technology and fire safety sectors.

Details of approved applications

The EPA reported that priority access to HFCs will be maintained for five specific uses. These include propellants in metered dose inhalers, certain foams for marine and trailer uses, etching of semiconductor material and cleaning of chemical vapour deposition chambers in the semiconductor sector.

They also include mission-critical military applications and onboard aerospace fire suppression systems.

The agency said these were determined to be critical areas with no viable substitutes currently available.

EPA statement on the rule

Assistant Administrator for Air Aaron Szabo said: "Today's rule is not just about giving essential sectors such as health, defense, and technology the ability to continue to operate at full capacity but ensuring we are fulfilling our core mission of protecting human health and the environment.

"As one of the many Americans who uses a metered dose inhaler every day, I understand the life-saving impact this will have.

"It also reaffirms our commitment to making America the AI capital of the world as we continue Powering the Great American Comeback at EPA."

Defence spray exemptions

The EPA outlined that defence sprays are excluded from aerosol requirements established under the 2023 Technology Transitions Rule.

It stated that ASA eligibility for defence sprays will not be renewed from calendar year 2026.

The agency explained that this was because defence sprays will continue to have access to HFCs through the open market.

It added that this adjustment ensures that military and law enforcement can continue to use available products without disruption.

Wider phasedown programme

The EPA said that the new rule does not change the structure of the HFC phasedown programme.

It explained that the allowances are narrowly focused on applications where no alternatives exist.

The agency stated that overall reduction targets for HFC use remain in place under existing frameworks.

It added that the phasedown schedule continues to align with commitments under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act. [Continue reading...](#)

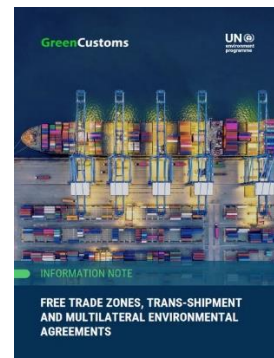
Source/image: [International Fire & Safety Journal](#), 26 August 2025

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