

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. Parties to the Montreal Protocol Meet to Discuss Continued and Increased Ozone Layer Protection



The [forty-seventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group](#) (OEWSG47) of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer met in Bangkok, Thailand, from 7 to 11 July 2025 to consider issues related to ongoing and increased efforts to protect the ozone layer. Proceedings could also be followed remotely through live streaming.

Many of the agenda items the parties worked through emanated from decisions adopted at [combined thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol](#) (COP13/MOP36) that took place last year.

A key priority for the parties was to start establishing the terms of reference for the study on the **2027–2029 replenishment of the Multilateral Fund** to estimate the funds necessary to enable parties to achieve compliance during the forthcoming replenishment period. The fund supports Article 5 (developing) countries to implement their obligations under the Montreal Protocol.

The parties were presented with updates from the TEAP on **life-cycle refrigerant management** (LRM) to prevent the emissions of refrigerant chemicals throughout their entire lifespan, from production to end-of-life disposal; updates on the availability of **metred-dose inhalers** that use less environmentally harmful propellants; and options for restructuring the Panel as well as its various Technical Options Committees (TOCs) to better address the evolving focus of their work. The TEAP also provided policy-relevant information on per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), or “**forever chemicals**”, noting that some regulatory controls could narrow the alternatives available to replace substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol.

Other issues emanating from the TEAP presentation included challenges such as the **future use and supply of** used, recovered, recycled or reclaimed **halons**, a fire suppressant widely used in the aviation industry. Ensuring availability of remaining halons and their alternatives to apply to the critical uses such as in aviation industry is important.

The Ozone Secretariat and the Advisory Committee for the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention (GTF) presented progress updates on their work in response to a decision taken at MOP36 to **enhance regional atmospheric monitoring** of substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol, including on the identification of suitable locations for establishing stations, expansion of the Committee and the revision of its terms of reference.

Halons, LRM and the terms of reference for the replenishment study, as well as the **use of controlled substances for feedstock** in the manufacture of other chemicals were discussed at length by the parties in plenary and also in separate contact groups. Parties also considered a draft decision on **regional initiatives to support the implementation of the Kigali Amendment**. The issue of the **membership of the TEAP and the organisation and restructuring of its TOCs**, increasing global atmospheric monitoring and further strengthening institutions under the Montreal Protocol were discussed in **informal meetings**.

While there was some appetite to examine other emerging issues such as PFAS and **very short-lived substance** (VSLs) during plenary, this did not extend to more in-depth contact group

discussions, with parties agreeing to wait for more information from the assessment panels and defer further consideration to the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP37) which is due to take place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 3 to 7 November 2025. Similarly, consideration of the **classification of the State of Palestine as an Article 5 party** was deferred for further discussions until MOP37.

In the margins of the Open-ended Working Group meeting a total of [26 side events](#) took place covering a wide range of topics on ozone layer health and protection.

The parties made good progress, including on discussing issues on which there are wide disagreements. Parties noted that further work and discussions between OEWG47 and November will contribute to progress at MOP37.

Source/image: [Ozone Secretariat](#), 16 July 2025

2. OEWG 47 Seeks to Ensure Continued Success of Montreal Protocol



The 47th meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (OEWG 47) considered a range of issues contributing the Protocol's continued success. Scientific assessments continued to provide the basis for parties' actions, enabling effective responses to new and emerging challenges to the health of the planet's ozone layer.

The *Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB)* summary report of the meeting notes that delegates benefited from the latest report of the Protocol's Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP), "which informed discussions on the items under consideration at this meeting." The experts of the Panel and its Technical Options Committees (TOCs) supported delegates in the negotiation of draft decisions and other issues that will be further discussed at the 37th Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOP 37) in November.

OEWG 47 addressed further strengthening Montreal Protocol institutions and discussed national and regional initiatives to support the implementation of the Kigali Amendment, which sets a phasedown schedule for hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) – a group of synthetic gases that were developed to replace ozone-depleting substances (ODS) but are powerful greenhouse gases (GHGs).

Delegates also considered, *inter alia*:

- Terms of reference for the study on the next replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (MLF);
- Options for the organization of the TEAP and its TOCs;
- Life-cycle refrigerant management;
- Metered-dose inhalers with low global warming potential (GWP) propellants;
- Halon 1301 and other controlled substances used for fire suppression;
- Feedstock uses of controlled substances; and
- Enhancing regional atmospheric monitoring of controlled substances.

According to the [ENB analysis of the meeting](#), concerns over the availability of funding were raised and further exacerbated when the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) flagged looming staffing and budget cuts to the US' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – and their impact on atmospheric monitoring. Several parties cautioned against relying on “just one country to do the heavy lifting when it comes to atmospheric monitoring.”

Widely regarded as one of the most successful multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), the Montreal Protocol has successfully tackled threats to the Earth's protective ozone layer, from chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), and other ODS, for nearly 40 years. Today, through its Kigali Amendment, the Protocol also addresses HFCs.

OWEG 47 convened in Bangkok, Thailand, from 7-11 July 2025. [[ENB Coverage of OWEG 47](#)]

Source/image: [IISD](#), 16 July 2025

3. From Compliance to Climate Action: Delivering on the Montreal Protocol's Full Potential



EIA Briefing to the 47th Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, 7-11 July 2025

As the climate crisis intensifies and threats to the ozone layer continue to mount, there are multiple urgent issues before parties at the 47th Open-ended Working Group (OWEG47) of the Montreal Protocol.

Now is not the time for hesitation. It is a moment for renewed commitment to bold, science-led multilateral action reflecting the interdependence of the climate, ozone and chemical regimes. The Montreal Protocol has the tools, legacy and mandate to lead. EIA urges parties to demonstrate the resolve to do so in order to sustain and build on past success.

Download: [EIA Briefing to the 47th OWEG](#)

Source/image: [EIA](#), 3 July 2025

4. Scaling up energy efficiency: a new revolving fund modality

In a move to accelerate global energy efficiency in the context of the Montreal Protocol, the Executive Committee approved a revolving fund mechanism at its 95th meeting in December 2024.



Aimed at scaling-up the adoption of energy-efficient, low global-warming-potential (GWP) technologies, a US \$40 million funding window was established to support two pilot projects in developing countries, designed to create revolving funds for energy-efficiency end users, such as supermarkets, hotels, cold chain for food and medicines. These funds, to be transferred to the Fund's implementing agencies, will provide low or zero-interest loans through

national financial institutions, enabling those who will benefit from them to invest in energy-efficient, low-GWP technologies. What makes this mechanism particularly important is its self-sustaining nature—repayments from beneficiaries will replenish the funds, ensuring an additional cycle of financial support to other beneficiaries. Set to run over an eight-year period, the pilot projects will eventually return the funds to the Multilateral Fund, maximizing the impact of the initial investment.

At the 96th meeting, in May 2025, the Executive Committee agreed on the operational modalities of the revolving fund mechanism. The Committee also agreed to support project preparation in Grenada, Thailand, and Türkiye through the World Bank, and a global initiative covering Colombia, Ghana, and Jordan through UNDP. These projects proposals are to be considered in 2026.

The revolving fund pilot projects will be guided by an advisory board composed of national stakeholders, and projects will identify targeted sectors, the annual consumption of HFCs in the sector, estimate the number of beneficiaries, as well as assess the energy consumption of relevant applications and estimate energy savings.

The success of these projects is to be supported by national policies, the alignment and complementarity with the country's Kigali HFC Implementation Plan (KIP), as well as the implementation of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and equipment labelling schemes.

As these pilot projects unfold, they will serve as valuable learning experiences and blueprints for future initiatives.

Source/image: [Multilateral Fund Secretariat](#), 16 July 2025

5. Rising rocket launches linked to ozone layer thinning



The rapid rise in global rocket launches could slow the recovery of the vital ozone layer, says Sandro Vattioni. The problem is being underestimated—yet it could be mitigated by forward-looking, coordinated action.

In recent years, the night sky has filled with satellites from rapidly expanding constellations in low Earth orbit, driven by a booming space industry. While this

development brings exciting opportunities, it also raises new environmental concerns.

Rocket launches and re-entering [space debris](#) release pollutants into the middle atmosphere, where they can damage the ozone layer which protects life on Earth from harmful UV radiation—a growing concern that scientists are only beginning to understand.

Research on the effects of rocket emissions on the ozone layer began over 30 years ago, but for a long time, these effects were considered small. This perception is starting to change as launch activity accelerates. In 2019, there were just 97 orbital space [rocket launches](#) globally. By 2024, that number had surged to 258, and is expected to keep rising rapidly.

A long-underestimated concern

In the middle and [upper atmosphere](#), emissions from rockets and re-entering space debris can remain up to 100 times longer than emissions from ground-based sources due to the absence of removal processes such as cloud-driven washout. While most launches occur in the Northern Hemisphere, atmospheric circulation spreads these pollutants globally.

To better understand the long-term impact of increasing rocket emissions, we collaborated with an international research team led by Laura Revell from the University of Canterbury. Using a chemistry climate model developed at ETH Zurich and the Physical Meteorological Observatory in Davos (PMOD/WRC) we simulated how projected rocket emissions will affect the ozone layer by 2030. The study is [published](#) in the journal *npj Climate and Atmospheric Science*.

Assuming a growth scenario with 2,040 annual launches in 2030—about eight times the figure for 2024—global average ozone thickness would decline by almost 0.3%, with seasonal reductions of up to 4% over Antarctica, where the ozone hole still forms each spring.

While these numbers may seem modest at first sight, it's important to remember that the ozone layer is still recovering from past damage caused by long-lived chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which were successfully banned by the Montreal Protocol in 1989. Yet today, the thickness of the global ozone layer is still roughly 2% below pre-industrial levels and is not expected to fully recover until around 2066. Our findings indicate that emissions from rockets—currently unregulated—could delay this recovery by years or decades, depending on rocket industry growth.

With rockets, too, the choice of fuel matters

The main contributors to [ozone depletion](#) from rocket emissions are gaseous chlorine and [soot particles](#). Chlorine catalytically destroys ozone molecules, while soot particles warm the middle atmosphere, accelerating ozone-depleting chemical reactions.

While most rocket propellants emit soot, chlorine emissions primarily come from solid rocket motors. Currently, the only propulsion systems that have a negligible effect on the ozone layer are those which use cryogenic fuels such as liquid oxygen and hydrogen. However, due to the technological complexity of handling cryogenic fuels, only about 6% of rocket launches currently use this technology.

Re-entry effects are still uncertain

We would like to mention that our study only considered emissions released from rockets during ascent into space. But this is only part of the picture. Most satellites in low Earth orbit re-enter the atmosphere at the end of their operational life, burning up in the process.

This process generates additional pollutants, including various metal particles and nitrogen oxides, due to the intense heat generated upon re-entry. While [nitrogen oxides](#) are known to deplete ozone catalytically, metal particles may contribute to forming polar stratospheric clouds or serve as reaction surfaces themselves, both of which can intensify ozone loss.

These re-entry effects are still poorly understood and not yet incorporated into most atmospheric models. From our point of view, it is clear that with increasing satellite constellations, re-entry emissions will become more frequent, and the total impact on the ozone layer is likely to be even higher than current estimates. Science is called upon to fill these gaps in our understanding.

Needed: Foresight and coordinated action

But that alone will not be enough. The good news: We believe a launch industry that avoids ozone damaging effects is entirely possible: Monitoring rocket emissions, minimizing the usage of

chlorine and soot-producing fuels, promoting alternative propulsion systems, and implementing the necessary and appropriate regulations are all key to ensuring that the ozone layer continues its recovery.⁴ This will take coordinated efforts between scientists, policymakers, and industry.

The Montreal Protocol successfully demonstrated that even planetary-scale environmental threats can be addressed through global cooperation. As we enter a new era of space activity, the same kind of foresight and international coordination will be needed to avoid harmful effects on the [ozone layer](#)—one of Earth's most vital natural shields.

More information: Laura E. Revell et al, Near-future rocket launches could slow ozone recovery, *npj Climate and Atmospheric Science* (2025). [DOI: 10.1038/s41612-025-01098-6](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41612-025-01098-6)
Journal information: [npj Climate and Atmospheric Science](#)

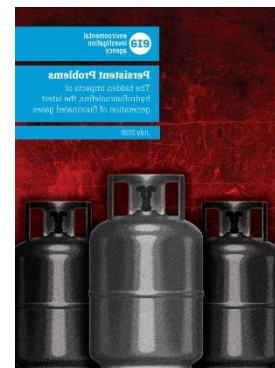
Source article: [Near-future rocket launches could slow ozone recovery](#)

Source/image: [Phys.org](#), 19 July 2025

6. Persistent Problems: The hidden impacts of hydrofluoroolefins, the latest generation of fluorinated gases

EIA urges all governments and parties to the Montreal Protocol to apply the precautionary principle, wherever possible avoiding the uptake of HFOs to avoid unnecessary risks to people and the planet. Governments, parties to the Montreal Protocol and manufacturers and commercial users of these products must act to implement a transition away from all F-gases. [Access report...](#)

Source/image: [EIA](#), 10 July 2025



AFRICA

7. Protection de la couche d'ozone : des équipements modernes offerts aux acteurs de la réfrigération



Dakar, 25 juil (APS) – Le ministre de l'Environnement et de la Transition écologique, Daouda Ngom, a remis, vendredi, aux acteurs de la réfrigération, un premier lot d'équipements modernes destinés à lutte contre le réchauffement climatique, en empêchant toute fuite dans l'atmosphère de substances nocives à la couche d'ozone utilisées dans la réfrigération.

"Ce premier lot entre dans le cadre d'un programme global d'équipements des frigoristes d'une valeur globale de 80 millions de francs CFA", a dit M. Ngom, lors de la remise de ces équipements acquis dans le cadre d'un partenariat tripartite liant le ministère de l'Environnement, le Programme des Nations unies pour le Développement (PNUD) et le Canada.

"Ce matériel est destiné aux frigoristes qui manipulent des gaz nocifs pour la couche d'ozone et l'environnement", a-t-il précisé, ajoutant que cette dotation entre dans le cadre de "la lutte contre les changements climatiques et la préservation de notre environnement".

Le consultant national du programme Ozone, Louis Alioune Ndiaye, et responsable du Centre de référence en froid et climatisation de Dakar, estime que "ces équipements vont aider le programme Ozone à atteindre ses objectifs de lutte contre la destruction de la couche d'ozone et l'environnement".

"Ils seront remis aux frigoristes qui dans le cadre de leur métier manipulent des substances et des gaz nocifs pour la couche d'ozone et réchauffent le climat", a-t-il indiqué.

Il a expliqué que ces équipements de nouvelles technologies vont permettre aux acteurs de la réfrigération de rentrer dans une phase de "bonnes pratiques" empêchant à ces gaz nocifs à la couche d'ozone de s'échapper dans l'atmosphère.

M. Ndiaye a rappelé que le Sénégal a ratifié à cet effet l'amendement de Kigali au protocole de Montréal relatif aux substances appauvrissant la couche d'ozone.

L'objectif de cet amendement, adopté à Kigali le 15 octobre 2016, est d'intégrer les hydrofluorocarbures, de puissants gaz à effet de serre principalement utilisés dans la réfrigération et la climatisation dans le champ du protocole de Montréal, visant à éliminer les substances nocives à la couche d'ozone.

Louis Alioune Ndiaye, a indiqué que l'impact des chlorofluorocarbures (CFC), des hydrochlorofluorocarbures (HCFC), est "néfaste" sur la couche d'ozone et sur le réchauffement du climat.

"Aujourd'hui avec ces équipements, les frigoristes, vont travailler en adoptant de bonnes pratiques permettant de ne plus laisser dans l'atmosphère ces puissants gaz à effet de serre", a-t-il dit.

Source/image : [APS](#), 25 juillet 2025

8. Frigair 2025: An electrifying success with overwhelming attendance and serious engagement



South Africa's premier exhibition for the heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVAC&R) industry left an indelible mark of high energy, palpable excitement and overwhelmingly positive feedback. Held from June 4-6 at the Gallagher Conference Centre, the show was not merely an event; it was a vibrant confluence of innovation, networking and a stark reminder of the industry's dynamism.

More than 4,500 visitors passed through the doors — a marked increase on the previous edition. But the real story wasn't just about numbers — it was about the quality of those who came.

The energy on the exhibition floor was undeniable from the outset. One veteran exhibitor, with two decades of experience attending such shows, remarked on the "overwhelming attendance on the first day," a direct testament to the effective marketing strategies deployed, including widespread posters and exhibitor-distributed invites, as well as an extensive digital marketing

campaign. The halls buzzed with serious engagement and high-calibre attendees created an environment where genuine connections and meaningful discussions thrived.

Many exhibitors used this opportunity to showcase leadership, particularly in the critical transition towards natural refrigerants and sustainable solutions, an area where the show particularly excelled. The show offered exhibitors invaluable face-time with consulting engineers, contractors and OEM manufacturers – the three main value-addition chains in the industry and the very people driving procurement and specification.

Navigating the refrigerant transition

A central theme echoing through the halls and technical talks was the urgent transition from synthetic to natural refrigerants. For instance, Andre van der Merwe, MD of Evapco, underscored the immediacy of the Kigali Amendment dates for South Africa, which have finally arrived. He noted a market concern regarding the high cost of new HFO refrigerants, pushing the industry towards natural alternatives like CO₂. Evapco International's research and development into CO₂ systems as a natural refrigerant option reflected broader international trends. Van der Merwe emphasised that the changes necessitated by these global protocols would significantly affect property owners and demand shifts in equipment and operational management.

Torsten Steinborn, MD of Bitzer in South Africa, reiterated that solutions are readily available for refrigeration and air conditioning applications utilising various refrigerants, including HFCs, HFOs, CO₂ and ammonia. He strongly advised customers to invest in low GWP refrigerants, especially natural ones, for long-term sustainability, highlighting that Bitzer is actively showcasing its capabilities in CO₂ and ammonia systems. As an Article 5 country of the Montreal Protocol, South Africa is firmly committed to the phase-out of high GWP refrigerants, making investments in natural solutions a "safe investment" for the next several decades. [Continue reading...](#)

Source/image: [Zawya](#), 4 July 2025

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

9. Fiji bans HCFC-loaded equipment from August, major step for ozone protection



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has announced a complete ban on the importation, exportation, and manufacture of equipment pre-charged with Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), effective August 1, 2025.

The decision is aligned with Fiji's commitments under the Montreal Protocol and the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Act.

It represents a critical step in protecting the ozone layer and promoting sustainable, climate-friendly technologies.

The ban will prohibit all new HCFC-based equipment, such as air conditioners and refrigerators, from entering Fiji.

The Ministry is urging businesses and consumers to transition to ozone-friendly alternatives to ensure compliance and contribute to global environmental goals.

HCFCs, widely used in refrigeration and cooling systems, are known to deplete the ozone layer and contribute to climate change, making this move essential for environmental preservation.

“As Fiji’s national focal point for the Montreal Protocol, we are committed to phasing out harmful substances like HCFCs,” said a Ministry statement.

“This ban is a call to action for all Fijians to adopt sustainable technologies and protect our planet for future generations.”

Source/image: [The Fiji Times](#), 22 July 2025

10. China issues national plan to reduce HCFC and HFC use by 2030

China has released its national implementation plan for the Montreal Protocol for 2025–2030, detailing measures to phase down ozone-depleting substances and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in line with its commitments under the Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

The plan mandates a gradual reduction of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), targeting a 67.5% cut in production and 73.2% in consumption by 2025 from baseline levels, and a 97.5% cut by 2030. Limited production and use will be retained only for servicing refrigeration and air conditioning systems. Production of HCFC-141b for controlled use will be banned from January 1, 2026.



For HFCs, China aims to reduce production and consumption by 10% of baseline values by 2029. Restrictions include a ban from 2026 on household refrigerator and freezer production using HFCs, and from 2029 on the use of refrigerants with Global Warming Potential (GWP) over 750 in most new room air conditioners and small commercial systems. Automotive air conditioning systems in new M1 vehicles must not use refrigerants with GWP over 150 starting July 1, 2029.

The plan also includes quota licensing and registration systems for production, use, sales, and import/export of controlled substances. It introduces stricter controls on by-products, feedstock uses, and exempted uses such as quarantine and preshipment applications of methyl bromide.

To improve end-of-life management, the plan mandates registration of maintenance and refrigerant recovery units, promotes technician training and certification, and encourages regeneration and traceability of recovered refrigerants. Halon recovery and destruction are also addressed.

Import and export controls will be strengthened with enhanced licensing, inspections, and anti-smuggling enforcement. The plan supports R&D into alternatives and promotes green refrigerants through updates to standards, financial support, and government procurement policies.

“Relevant departments should strengthen supervision, properly manage quotas and registration,

and encourage industry associations to promote alternative technologies,” the document states, urging joint efforts to fulfill China’s obligations under the Montreal Protocol and contribute to global climate and ozone protection.

Source/image: [Refindustry](#), 17 July 2025

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

11. Moldova seizes HFC valued at over €30,000



MOLDOVA: Two people have been arrested in a crackdown on refrigerant smugglers in Moldova uncovered illegal HFC valued at over €30,000.

The Moldovan Prosecutor’s Office for Combating Crime and Special Cases (PCCOCS) carried out seven searches in the area of the country’s capital Chisinau, with the support of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM).

The investigations targeted the criminal activity of a group of persons suspected of having acted in complicity, each with predetermined roles, for the purpose of smuggling R134a, placed for storage in a customs warehouse.

The criminal prosecution actions were initiated after checks on some goods in customs warehouse uncovered major discrepancies between the declared goods and those found. It was found that the goods were substituted in order to simulate the weight indicated in the accompanying documents, and some of them were missing altogether.

Two persons, citizens of the Republic of Moldova, aged 46 and 62, are being investigated in the case.

Source/image: [Cooling Post](#), 22 July 2025

12. Plans for the implementation of the Kigali Amendment were discussed in Ashgabat



A discussion of national plans and priority areas of activity within the framework of the implementation of the provisions of the Kigali Amendment, which was adopted in 2016 to the Montreal Protocol of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and ratified by Turkmenistan in 2020, took place in the capital of Turkmenistan.

The event, held in the conference hall of the Archabil Hotel, was organized by the Ozone Center under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

of Turkmenistan and the representative of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the country, reports "[Turkmenistan: Golden Age](#)".

Several projects and planned events in support of the country's efforts on the climate agenda were presented to representatives of ministries and departments, the Turkmengaz and Turkmennebit State Concerns, state and business enterprises engaged in the market for the installation and maintenance of cooling and air conditioning systems.

Experts hope that actions within the framework of the Kigali Amendment will contribute to curbing global warming. Currently, the world community is moving towards the development of a new generation of refrigerants that will be neutral both to the planet's ozone layer and to the climate. These actions are related to the modernization of the equipment profile, the introduction of new technologies, building codes, safety regulations for refrigeration technicians, and their retraining.

The meeting ended with a discussion on the needs and priorities of Turkmenistan in implementing national "ozone" legislation and global agreements, the deadlines for collecting data for subsequent action planning and other steps in this area were determined, the publication writes.

Source/image: [Nebit-Gaz](#), 26 July 2025

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

13. Advancing Certification and Capacity Building in the RAC Sector

The National Ozone Unit continues to strengthen the capacity of refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) technicians through its Professional RAC Certification Programme. In a recent milestone, technicians received their leak detectors as part of the recertification process—an essential tool for ensuring environmentally sound servicing practices and compliance with Montreal Protocol standards.

Additionally, the Unit was proud to issue certificates to technicians who successfully completed the Hydrocarbon Cool Training Programme hosted at the Energy Chamber. This specialized training equips participants with the skills and knowledge needed to safely handle flammable, low-GWP refrigerants like R-290, supporting the country's transition to sustainable cooling technologies.

These efforts form part of Trinidad and Tobago's broader commitment to capacity building under the Montreal Protocol.

Source/image: [Trinidad and Tobago National Ozone Unit](#), 13 May 2025



NORTH AMERICA

14. Washington Governor Ferguson Signs Bill to Reduce Climate Super Pollutant Emissions

OLYMPIA, WA – Today, Governor Bob Ferguson signed new legislation aimed at reducing emissions from hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are “climate super pollutants.”

If leaked or vented, each pound of HFCs traps as much heat in the atmosphere as 2,000 to 4,000 pounds of carbon dioxide. Fluorinated gases are used for many purposes but mainly as cooling and heating agents or refrigerants in air-conditioners, heat pumps, and cold chain refrigeration systems.

"This law protects the climate along with our economic security," said Representative Davina Duerr (D-Bothell), author of the legislation. "Refrigerants keep buildings comfortable and our food fresh. With this reform, we now have a fiscally responsible way to adapt to the global phasedown. The new law also provides market certainty, so people know what to do. I'm grateful for all the stakeholders who worked with me to get this law right."

[HB 1462](#) will help Washington businesses and other refrigeration system owners adapt to the ongoing global and national HFC phasedown in a low-cost, market-based manner. Congress passed the AIM Act—it has already reduced our HFC refrigerant production 40 percent in 2024. National supply goes down 70 percent in 2029, and further down to 85 percent below baseline in 2036.

"Because of Representative Duerr's vision, Washington state continues to lead the way in securing a future where HFC refrigerants no longer heat up the planet" said [Dr. Richie Kaur](#), senior superpollutant reduction advocate at NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council).

Industry estimates about 90 percent of HFCs in the United States are [vented into the atmosphere at the end of life](#), contributing billions of tons of CO2 equivalent to the climate crisis. Vented HFCs are also wasted—the phasedown means they cannot be replaced with newly produced HFCs at the same levels.

"Reducing climate pollution from HFCs has been a priority of mine," said Representative Beth Doglio (D-Olympia), chair of the House environment committee. "Passing this bill helps keep Washington in the lead as climate crisis response falls to the states."

HB 1462 does NOT require anyone to buy new equipment or force premature retirement of existing heating or cooling systems. Instead, the bill increases supplies of recovered and reclaimed HFCs to offset the dwindling supply of new HFCs, making it more possible for refrigeration, air conditioning, and heat pump systems to be serviced throughout their full useful lifetime.

"The reality is homeowners in Washington are going to need reclaimed HFCs for the next 10, 15, 20 years," said Mike Armstrong, President of A-Gas. "This bill helps Washington secure its own refrigerant supply."

In addition to the market signals for greater HFC recovery and reuse, HB 1462 also solidifies the longer-term signal that the state needs to transition to ultra-low climate impact alternatives where possible by 2035. The bill gathers experts to guide the state in future rulemaking to ensure heating and cooling systems of the future are climate friendly and maintainable far into the future when HFCs have become obsolete.

"We supported HB 1462 for business reasons," said Mike Wenrick, PCC director of purpose. "PCC Community markets has transitioned to carbon dioxide-based refrigeration in six of our grocery stores. Our power bills have gone down, and our climate footprint has gone down too."

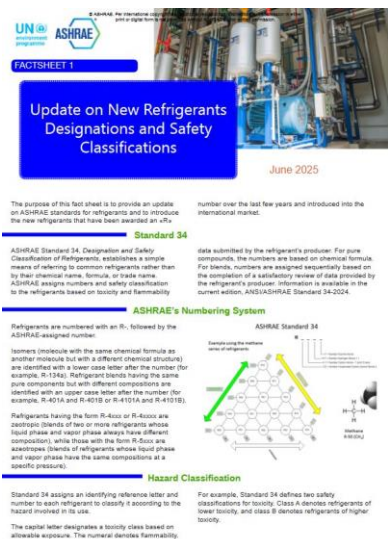
The new law was developed with input from a wide range of stakeholders including environmental organizations and industry associations representing air conditioning, refrigeration, and heating manufacturers, distributors, contractors, reclaimers, and end users, including supermarkets and HVAC contractors.

"We applaud Washington's new law as a critical step to reduce climate pollution and advance the transition away from harmful HFCs to better alternatives," said Beth Porter, senior climate policy analyst at the Environmental Investigation Agency. "HB 1462 will expand the supply of recovered refrigerants and position Washington to successfully navigate the global phasedown of these substances."

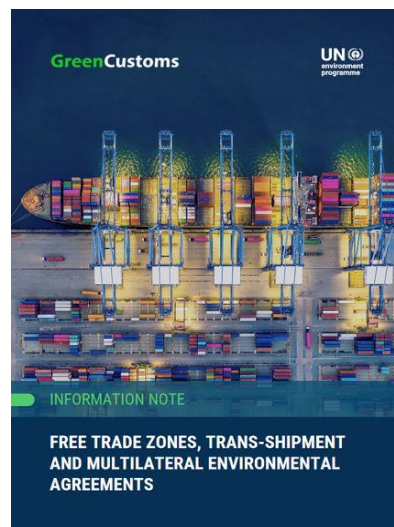
Source: [NRDC](#), 19 May 2025

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