



## **Information Note**

### **JumpStart Partnership Achieving Climate Benefit from HCFC Phase-out**

29 JULY 2010, BRUSSELS – Up to 25 GtCO<sub>2</sub>-eq. emissions between now and 2050 could be eliminated through the phase-out of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). Such phase-out will also bring a net benefit of advancing the recovery of the ozone layer by up to 3.3 years. Today a tool-box developed by the OzonAction Branch of UNEP DTIE, with the support of the European Commission (ENRTP), the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, was launched to help developing countries to contribute to this goal. HCFCs are widely used around the globe in applications such as refrigeration, air conditioning and manufacturing of insulating foams.

In 2007 an historic agreement was negotiated under the Montreal Protocol - the global treaty established in 1987 to protect the Earth's ozone layer – which accelerates the phase out of HCFCs in both developed and developing countries (also known as Article 2 and Article 5 countries, respectively). This adjustment to the treaty caps production and consumption levels in developing countries by 2013 and advances the final phase-out date for these chemicals by 10 years – 2020 for developed countries and 2030 for developing countries. Although HCFCs have considerably lower ozone depleting potentials than CFCs, many HCFCs have high global warming potentials - up to 2,000 times that of carbon dioxide, the reference gas for climate change.

The policy and technical publications as part of the tool-box launched today are designed to help governments and industries in developing countries make informed and timely decisions about the technologies and policies needed to replace or avoid the use of HCFCs - in such a way that achieves benefits not only for the Earth's protective ozone layer, but also for the global climate system. The publications are:

- HCFC Policy and Legislative Options: A Guide for Developing Countries
- Phase-out of HCFCs in the Flexible and Rigid Foam Sector – Guidance on Choosing Technology Options that Protect both Ozone and Climate
- Alternatives to HCFCs in the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning sector - Practical Guidelines and Case Studies for Equipment Retrofit and Replacement

Mr Rajendra Shende, head of UNEP's OzonAction Branch, said: *"Developing countries need such a tool box that would enable them to develop and implement HCFC phase-out strategies"*. He continued: *"Since*

*a well designed phase-out can achieve both ozone and climate benefits and at the same time promote a 'green economy', this can present a triple-win strategy for the global community."*

Mr Philip Owen, Head of Transport and Ozone Unit at the European Commission, stated: "We welcome these publications as a concrete step towards moving away from HCFCs in favour of environmentally friendly solutions. The effort that has gone into their preparation shows that this accumulated knowledge can now be shared widely."

Dr Husamuddin Ahmadzai, Senior Adviser of SEPA, stated: "With the renewed efforts to phase-out HCFCs by Parties to the Montreal Protocol, the joint reports and case studies' package are a much appreciated and timely information exchange to assist governments and industry in the developing countries to replace or avoid the use of ozone depleting substances by ozone and climate friendly alternatives and practices."

The documents are available free of charge from the HCFC Help Centre on UNEP's web site at <http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/topics/hcfc.asp>.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Note to Editors:**

About the European Commission's ENRTP. The thematic programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP) helps developing countries and partner organisations to address environmental and natural resource management issues. Moreover, it helps to meet their obligations under multilateral environmental agreements and to take international policy leadership in such areas as fighting climate change, tackling land degradation and desertification, biodiversity protection and proper management of chemicals and wastes. Its legal base is Article 13 of the EU Regulation establishing the Development Co-operation Instrument (DCI).

About the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, created in 1967, is the national agency for environmental protection and nature conservation as well as outdoor recreation and hunting issues. Its key tasks are to present proposals for environmental policy and legislation to the Swedish Government and ensure that environmental policy decisions are

implemented. The Agency complies with the ISO 14001 environmental management standard and EMAS for both direct and indirect environmental impact. The Swedish EPA supplies expert knowledge and proposals to central government in its national, EU and international work on environmental issues. Nationally the Agency regulates, sets standards and acts as a guide, coordinator and evaluator. Some 100 Swedish EPA employees are involved as experts and Swedish representatives in EU-related work and in international multilateral or bilateral cooperation. Funded by central government, the Swedish EPA is an independent authority acting on the basis of a government ordinance that defines its terms of reference.

About UNEP DTIE's OzonAction Branch. The OzonAction Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics assists developing countries and countries with economies in transition (CEITs) to enable them to achieve and sustain compliance with the Montreal Protocol. With this programme's assistance, countries are able to make informed decisions about alternative technologies and ozone-friendly policies. The Branch has the distinction of implementing more than 1,000 projects and services that benefit more than 100 developing countries and 17 CEITs, plus other services that assist another 40 developing countries.

About the JumpStart project. The Montreal Protocol focuses on the protection of the earth's ozone layer. This highly successful treaty has enabled both developed and developing countries to achieve a near total phase-out in the production and consumption of most ozone depleting substances. Because the majority of the controlled chemicals are also potent greenhouse gasses, the actions taken under the Montreal Protocol have contributed significantly to mitigating climate change. UNEP DTIE is implementing the "JumpStart" project to encourage developing countries to expedite their compliance with the Protocol's HCFC phase-out obligations and to adopt environmentally friendly alternatives to HCFCs. The overall objective of the project is to contribute towards the reduction of direct and indirect releases or emissions of ozone depleting substances (HCFCs) and greenhouse gases (HCFCs and HFCs) both through promotion of zero ozone depletion potential (ODP) and low global warming potential (GWP) alternatives as well as promotion of best practices and better engineered and energy efficient technology. More information: [www.unep.fr/ozonaction/topics/hcfc\\_jumpstart.htm](http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/topics/hcfc_jumpstart.htm)

Resource Kit for journalists: Vital Ozone Graphics 2 - Climate Link.

This electronic publication is intended not only to inform and inspire journalists but also to serve as an interesting reference for those who wish to learn more about the Montreal Protocol and ozone layer depletion. This second edition of "Vital Ozone Graphics" includes details on the latest decisions taken by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol to accelerate the phase out of HCFCs and outlines the implications this has on the use of replacement chemicals. The Resource Kit also focuses on the linkages and interconnections between ozone depletion and climate change – and the remaining challenges posed by the considerable amounts of ozone depleting substances remaining in equipment around the world. More information: <http://www.grida.no/publications/vg/ozone2/>