



calls for binding HFC emission reduction provisions under a new Climate Change Agreement

We are a global initiative of companies called **Refrigerants Naturally!** committed to combat climate change and depletion of the ozone layer by replacing environmentally harmful fluorinated gases ('F-gases' such as CFCs, HCFCs and HFCs) with natural refrigerants. Membership in the initiative includes McDonald's, PepsiCo, Red Bull, The Coca-Cola Company and Unilever. The initiative is supported by Greenpeace and by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).*

The Refrigerants, Naturally! initiative is recognised as a non-profit association under German law and is accredited as observer organisation to the climate change negotiations.

The **key goal** of the initiative is to promote a shift in the point-of-sale cooling technology (beverage coolers/vendors and ice-cream freezers) towards natural refrigerants. This sector represents a significant portion of F-gas refrigerant use.

Natural refrigerants are naturally occurring substances that can be used as cooling agents in refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment. These substances include hydrocarbons (e.g. propane, iso-butane and cyclopentane), CO₂, water and ammonia, and have a very low or zero global warming potential (GWP) and a zero ozone depletion potential (ODP).

Through our activities we are able to demonstrate that natural refrigerants are sustainable and economically viable alternatives to HFCs and HCFCs, two commonly-used anthropogenic greenhouse gases which have a very high GWP. HFCs are therefore subject to the controls decided by the Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

Furthermore, natural refrigerant-based equipment used or tested by our companies is typically more energy-efficient than HFC- and HCFC-based equipment, and is thus able to achieve long-term cost benefits, decrease energy-related global warming effects and avoid or minimise direct global warming effects resulting from refrigerant emissions.

A clear and strong signal to the market is needed to support the transition to natural refrigerants. The Refrigerants, Naturally! member companies and Greenpeace do not consider HFC refrigerants (including HFOs) as suitable alternatives to HCFCs. These companies have implemented HFC free technologies using natural refrigerants in developing countries as well as in industrialised countries.

If HFCs replace ozone-depleting gases, their contribution to global warming will lead to irreversible environmental consequences. It is in the direct interest of developing countries to choose long-term and sustainable replacements for HCFCs. We firmly believe that natural refrigerants offer long-term solutions to meeting our cooling needs.

Although private-sector action to shift refrigeration technology towards the use of natural refrigerants is very important, a strong support from political decision-makers for climate-friendly refrigeration is also needed to further accelerate their market uptake!

We would be pleased to share with any interested party our partnership's experience to date in applying alternative HFC-free refrigeration technologies in our sectors, and are open to discussing with you options that could encourage the emergence of more climate-friendly practices in the future.

**The following policy statement does not reflect the position of UNEP.*

