

Refrigerants, Naturally! members and Greenpeace urge all parties of the UNFCCC at COP 19 in Warsaw to declare their support of an HFC phase-down under the Montreal Protocol.

Bridging the gap: Refrigerants, Naturally! calls for a phase down of HFCs under the Montreal Protocol

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

Natural refrigerants are naturally occurring substances that can be used as cooling agents in refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment. They include hydrocarbons (e.g. propane, isobutane), CO₂, water and ammonia and are patent free. Natural refrigerants have a very low or zero Global Warming Potential (GWP) and zero Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP), they do not deplete resources and produce no persistent wastes, and their production is not energy intensive.

We promote a shift in commercial refrigeration, i.e. point-of-sale cooling units (beverage coolers, vendors, dispensers and ice-cream freezers) towards natural refrigerants, as this sector significantly contributes to global emissions of F-gases.

We have successfully installed more than 2 million units using natural refrigerants around the world, in developing as well as in industrialised countries.

This natural refrigerant-based equipment is more energy-efficient than the HFC- and HCFC-equipment it has replaced; it thus achieves long-term cost benefits and significantly reduces indirect emissions related to the use of energy.

Our experience proves that natural refrigerants are technically and economically viable alternatives to HFCs and HCFCs. They do not harm the environment, save resources and offer the only truly sustainable alternative for commercial refrigeration.

Therefore, Refrigerants, Naturally! member companies and Greenpeace do not consider HFCs as suitable alternatives.

Natural refrigerant based technologies have been commercially available for many years now and will continue to penetrate the market.

To multiply these experiences and further accelerate their market uptake globally, strong commitment from political decision makers is needed: An international agreement to use the expertise and the institutions of the Montreal Protocol to phase down the production and consumption of HFCs would be an important step towards a phase-down and eventual phase-out of these substances.

The Rio+20 declaration supported a gradual phase-down in the consumption and production of HFCs, recognising that the phase-out of ozone depleting substances has led to a rapid increase in the use of HFCs. The G-20 leaders in their Saint Petersburg summit declaration and other high-level political declarations including the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and the Arctic Council have recently demanded to use the Montreal Protocol for HFC phase-down. Corresponding amendment proposals to the Montreal Protocol have been submitted since 2009, and in May 2013, the European Union proposed a draft decision to the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC.

Refrigerants, Naturally! members and Greenpeace urge all parties of the UNFCCC to declare their support of formal negotiations of HFC phase-down under the Montreal Protocol.

We are pleased to share with any interested party our partnership's experience to date in applying natural 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.*