

This year, CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere have reached the 400 parts per million threshold for the first time in human history. Refrigerants, Naturally! firmly believes that current emissions of greenhouse gases, including HFCs, must be rapidly reduced to avert further climate change.

## Refrigerants, Naturally! welcomes the G-20 commitment to phase down 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), CO<sub>2</sub>, 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.**

Therefore, we highly appreciate the G-20 commitment to seek an international agreement that will introduce an HFC phase down under the Montreal Protocol. We believe this is an effective way to control these emissions.

The Refrigerants, Naturally! member companies and Greenpeace support the proposed amendments to include HFCs under the Montreal Protocol.

We urge all parties to support such initiative and initiate formal negotiations at this 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

In addition, we appeal to the parties of the UNFCCC to issue their support of this initiative at the 19<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties in Warsaw.

We, the member companies, 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.

[www.refrigerantsnaturally.com](http://www.refrigerantsnaturally.com)

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

