



Strategic Framework

Refrigerants, Naturally! (RN) is a global initiative of companies committed to combat climate change and ozone layer depletion by substituting harmful fluorinated gases (“F-gases”, such as CFCs, HCFCs and HFCs) with natural refrigerants with a focus on their point-of-sale cooling applications. Point-of-sale cooling may include the entire retail infrastructure, e.g. HVAC, but excludes manufacturing and distribution. Refrigerants, Naturally! is supported by Greenpeace and the United Nation Environment Programme and recognised as a "Partnership for Sustainable Development" by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

Key goals of the initiative are to

- Promote a shift in the point-of-sale cooling technology towards natural refrigerants with a low-or non-Global Warming Potential and a zero Ozone Depleting Potential and that is safe, reliable and cost effective,
- Do this whilst improving or (at least) equaling energy efficiency compared to existing fluorocarbon based technology,
- Provide a platform and a critical mass in communicating with the refrigeration technology supply chain, with other users, governments and civil society.

Each member company is required to

- Publicly commit to the objectives of the initiative,
- Develop prospective timetables to move their operation towards these goals and periodically share their progress with members,
- Make a substantial effort or investment to progressively replace fluorocarbons with natural refrigerants. This may include R&D, testing, financial investment, staff time or public engagement,
- Share technical information about alternative refrigeration between the partners of the initiative via regular meetings, special events/workshops, and bilateral exchanges,
- Share data and results with external stakeholders, such as their wider supply chain, their industry peer groups, government decision makers, and the public.





History and Achievements

The Refrigerants, Naturally! Initiative was launched in 2004 by The Coca Cola Company, Unilever and McDonald's. These companies committed to an HFC-free future during the "Refrigerants, Naturally! Conference 2004", where innovative technologies were showcased. In 2005, the Refrigerants, Naturally! Initiative was the recipient of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Protection Award. Three other global companies joined the network in 2006: Carlsberg, IKEA and PepsiCo. Over the last years these companies have, together with their suppliers, developed and tested new technologies and placed natural refrigerant - using equipment on the market.

Together these six companies are reducing their impact on climate change

- by replacing refrigerants with HFC-free refrigerants,
- by using HFC-free insulation material,
- by reducing the energy consumption of new refrigerating equipment.

Policy Statement

RN supports a positive regulatory and political framework for investment in climate friendly technologies. While the companies are working on different technological options and are at different stages of market implementation, they all share a commitment to eliminate HFCs in point-of-sale cooling applications and a conviction that alternative technologies work efficiently and reliably, offer environmental benefits (including being more energy-efficient than the alternative) and are, or are becoming, commercial available. RN is open to discussing options with policy-makers that could encourage the emergence of more climate-friendly practices in the future.





Call for New Members

Refrigerants, Naturally! is encouraging other major companies interested in HFC-free technologies to join the initiative. New partners will be expected to both contribute resources in terms of internal research and development/investment in alternative refrigeration technologies, and to contribute to the cost of the secretariat based in Frankfurt, Germany.

The present members have found this initiative as an effective, flexible and useful tool to help us manage their work on sustainable refrigeration. It provides participants, among other things, with the following:

- A forum to collect intelligence and share information on HFC-free technologies and public policy trends.
- A “safe haven” to manage the institutional and NGO dialogue in an open and non-confrontational way
- A practical tool and critical mass to collectively communicate with the supply chain and to take position in the public domain (with legislators, with pro-HFC lobby, etc.)
- An established “brand” with credibility and visibility – identified with leadership even if subject is difficult to explain
- A flexible platform to showcase what we do, with availability of material, messages, tools, plus Greenpeace’s and UNEP’s capabilities and connections.

