

What is the solution?

The solution is to effect individual action at different levels in society:

▪ Global level

The world community has understood the gravity and urgency of the ozone depletion problem, and has acted decisively. Since 1987, over 170 nations have committed themselves to action by ratifying the Montreal Protocol. Under this treaty, each signatory Government (Party) pledges to phase out their use and production of ODS according to an agreed timetable. The UNEP OzonAction Programme facilitates multilateral and bilateral cooperation at global and regional levels through networks.

▪ National level

Recognizing the special situation of developing countries, the Parties established a Multilateral Fund in 1991 to provide financial and technical assistance to enable those countries to phase out ODS without disrupting their economies. Support is targeted to individual developing countries to enable them to shift away from ODS. The UNEP OzonAction Programme assists countries in preparing Country Programmes, Refrigerant Management Plans, Institutional Strengthening Projects and training.

▪ Local level

Local industry associations, NGOs, and policy makers are informed and trained through National Ozone Units (NOUs) on how to make good decisions within their companies or organizations that result in "ozone friendly" actions. The UNEP OzonAction Programme supports local initiatives by creating awareness and training.

Our goal is to help you obtain the information you need to make the right decisions.

Contact us now!

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The OzonAction Programme

under the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation
of the Montreal Protocol



**Building skills and local capacity in developing countries
to protect the stratospheric ozone layer**

What is the ozone depletion problem?

Science has proven that emissions of man-made chemicals such as CFCs, halons, methyl bromide, HCFCs and other ozone depleting substances (ODS) are responsible for depletion of a protective segment of the upper atmosphere known as the "ozone layer". Millions of ozone molecules are being destroyed every minute resulting in increased amounts of harmful ultraviolet radiation reaching the Earth's surface. When exposed to this radiation, people are at significantly higher risk of contracting skin cancer, eye cataracts, and developing suppressed immune systems. Similarly, ozone loss reduces agricultural productivity, damages the marine food chain, and degrades materials such as plastics.

Concerned people in industry, government, NGOs and the general public want to take action to reverse this dangerous trend by reducing and eliminating ODS. However, they need critical information, skills, or financial resources to begin such actions.



Do you need answers to any of these questions?

- What are CFCs, halons, HCFCs, methyl bromide & other ozone depleting substances (ODS)?
- Why are they being phased out under the Montreal Protocol?
- Why should I be concerned about them?
- Will I still be able to buy and use them?
- Can they be replaced, and if so, what technologies, equipment and chemicals are needed?
- What are the sources of the alternative technologies that replace ODS, and what are their advantages & disadvantages?
- Is assistance available to help me phase out ODS in my company/organization?
- How/where can I get the necessary information and training?
- What is happening in my country and in my region?
- What can industry do?
- What can my company do?
- What can I do?
- Who should I contact in my country for further information and assistance?

Contact UNEP DTIE's OzonAction Programme to find answers to these questions.



UNEP's role as an Implementing Agency

UNEP, along with UNDP, UNIDO and the World Bank, is one of the implementing agencies of the Multilateral Fund. The Fund provides assistance to developing countries to enable them to meet their commitments under the Protocol.

Unique among the agencies, UNEP through its OzonAction programme is responsible for providing a «clearinghouse function» under the Protocol that includes:

- supporting global and regional information exchange,
- facilitating the sharing of experience and information between countries through workshops and networking,
- providing technical and policy training to enable implementation of phase-out of ODS.

UNEP, along with the other Implementing Agencies, also assists with the development of national strategies and action plans to phase out ODS.

Cooperation with Bilateral agencies

The programme also works with countries that provide assistance to Article 5 countries that is over and above their contributions to the Fund. These include the Finnish International Development Agency (FINNIDA) and the Swedish International Development Authority (Sida).



How can we help you to take action on ozone?

Since 1991, UNEP DTIE's OzonAction Programme in Paris has strengthened the capacity of governments (especially National Ozone Units) and industry in developing countries to make informed decisions on technology and policy options that will result in cost-effective ODS phase-out activities with minimal external intervention.

The Programme accomplishes this by delivering a range of need-based services, including:

Information Exchange

enables decision makers to take informed decisions on policies and investments. Information and management tools include the CD-ROM reference database, OASIS (OzonAction Strategic Information System), a World Wide Web site (<http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction.html>), the quarterly OzonAction newsletter, sector-specific technical publications for identifying and selecting alternative technologies, and policy guidelines.

Training and Networking

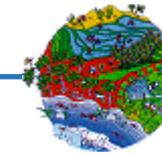
provide platforms for exchanging experiences, developing skills, and tapping the expertise of peers and other experts in the global ozone protection community. Training and networking workshops build skills for implementing and managing phase-out activities, and are conducted at the regional level (support is also extended to national activities). The Programme currently operates eight regional and sub-regional Networks of ODS Officers comprising more than 110 countries. These networks have resulted in member countries taking early steps to implement the Montreal Protocol.

Country Programmes and Institutional Strengthening

support the development and implementation of national ODS phase-out strategies and programmes, especially for low-volume ODS-consuming countries. The Programme has assisted, or is assisting, 85 developing countries in the development of their Country Programmes and implements Institutional Strengthening projects for 73 developing countries.

Cost-effective sector approaches

The Programme has been employing the innovative strategy of Refrigerant Management Plans (RMPs) to assist countries in cost-effective phase-out of ODS across the entire sector. This approach is particularly appropriate for low-volume ODS-consuming countries (LVCs) for which the refrigeration sector often comprises 70-90% of national ODS consumption. The OzonAction Programme is working on similar approaches for other sectors, such as halons and methyl bromide.



UNEP's ozone protection role under the GEF

In addition to its role under the Multilateral Fund, UNEP is also an Implementing Agency under the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF provides funding for global environment projects, including ozone layer protection, for countries with GNP per capita below US\$4,000 and which are not eligible for funding under the Multilateral Fund.

UNEP DTIE is assisting, 18 Countries with Economies in Transition (CEITs) with:

- surveys of ODS consumption and Country Programme preparation, including proposals for investment and non-investment projects. (in the case of those CEITs that recently ratified the Protocol),
- the preparation and implementation of Institutional Strengthening,
- training projects,
- ODS phaseout in specific sectors: refrigeration, servicing and methyl bromide,
- compliance with the trade and licensing provisions of the Montreal Protocol through regional initiatives.