

OZONENews

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In this issue:

- 1- Greenpeace Victory: Coca-Cola Cleans Up**
- 2- Senate Considers Restrictions on Use of HCFS**
- 3- MALAWI: The Importation of Ozone-Eroding Products in Developing Countries**
- 4- India Accelerates Phase-Out of Ozone Depleting Substances**

1- Greenpeace Victory: Coca-Cola Cleans Up

Sydney, Wednesday 28 June 2000. Greenpeace today congratulated Coca-Cola for meeting Greenpeace demands by adopting a new refrigeration policy to reduce its impact on global climate change before the world's first Green Games. Coca-Cola today announced that it would phase out potent greenhouse gas hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in refrigeration by the Athens Olympic Games in 2004. It will expand its research into refrigeration alternatives and insist that suppliers announce specific time schedules to use only HFC-free refrigeration in all new cold drink equipment by 2004. "Greenpeace has been campaigning globally to change Coca-Cola's polluting HFCs," said Greenpeace Olympics campaigner Rupert Posner. "Today's policy change shows that big industry can be made to abandon dirty practices when environmental groups raise the alarm." In May this year Greenpeace exposed Coca-Cola's use of polluting HFCs in the report Green Olympics, Dirty Sponsors. The report called on Coke to; - Commit to 100% environmentally friendly Greenfreeze technology at the Sydney Olympics site and all future Olympic Games; abandon its corporate refrigeration policy of HFC use; specify all new equipment to be Greenfreeze and abandon all CFC/HCFC/HFC use by the 2004 Athens Summer Olympics. "Today's announcement by Coca-Cola fulfils most of these demands and sets a strong environmental benchmark for other industries" said Posner. "Greenpeace will work to ensure that Coca-Cola delivers on its new policy and provides adequate verification and independent monitoring of action. "The policy shift is a tribute to the thousands of people around the world who have joined the Greenpeace campaign at www.cokespotlight.com. to stop Coca-Cola from using dangerous HFC gases which contribute to climate change," said Posner. "If Coca-Cola can make this change, so too can the other Olympic sponsors such as McDonald's."

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2- Senate Considers Restrictions on Use of HCFS

WASHINGTON, DC, June 23, 2000 (ENS) - The U.S. Senate is now considering an amendment to an international agreement on ozone protection. President Bill Clinton sent the "Beijing Amendment" to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to the Senate on Thursday. The Beijing Amendment was adopted in December by the parties to the Montreal Protocol, an international environmental agreement to protect the stratospheric ozone layer, which shields the Earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation. To date, 172 countries have ratified the Montreal Protocol. Under the protocol, adopted in 1997, developed countries pledged to reduce production and consumption of ozone depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by 50 percent of 1986 levels by 1999. Developing countries were granted a grace period allowing them to increase CFC use before taking on commitments.

The principal features of the Beijing Amendment, which was negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Program, are the addition of trade controls on hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). HCFCs were adopted as substitutes for CFCs, but scientists have now learned that HCFCs are also ozone depleters. The Beijing Amendment includes production controls on HCFCs, adds bromochloromethane to the substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol, and adds mandatory reporting requirements on the use of methyl bromide for quarantine purposes. "The Beijing Amendment will constitute a major step forward in protecting public health and the environment from potential adverse effects of

