

Special Issue on the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

16 September 2021

The World Ozone Day 2021 theme and tagline – Keeping Us, Our Food and Vaccines Cool

On 19 December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date, in 1987, on which the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed.

States are invited to devote the Day each year to promote, at the national level, activities in accordance with the objectives of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments.

Please refer to the Ozone Day webpage in the OzonAction website.

We thank you for your ongoing commitment to compliance with the Montreal Protocol and your excellent work in implementing your national strategies and projects.

OzonAction team wishes you a successful celebration!

Montreal Protocol - Keeping Us, Our Food and Vaccines Cool

The Montreal Protocol started life as a global agreement to protect the ozone layer, a job it has done well, making it one of the most successful environmental agreements to date. A united global effort to phase out ozone-depleting substances means that, today, the hole in the ozone layer is healing, in turn protecting human health, economies and ecosystems. But, as this year's World Ozone Day seeks to highlight, the Montreal Protocol does so much more – such as slowing climate change and helping to boost energy efficiency in the cooling sector, which contributes to food security.

Many ozone-depleting substances warm the climate, so the agreement has already slowed climate change. The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol is set to deliver even stronger climate benefits. Under the Amendment, nations have committed to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). While HFCs don't damage the ozone layer, these coolants are powerful greenhouse gases. Reducing their use, as agreed, is expected to avoid up to 0.4°C of global temperature rise by the end of the century, while continuing to protect the ozone layer.

The Kigali Amendment also provides an opportunity for improved energy efficiency in the cooling sector. New innovation replacing HFCs offers an opportunity to redesign air conditioning and refrigeration to use less power, allowing expansion of comfort cooling and cold chain efficiencies without increasing climate impacts. The combination of reducing HFC consumption and improved cold chain efficiencies, particularly in developing economies, will also combat food loss.

Around one third of all food produced globally for human consumption is either lost or wasted each year, largely due to a lack of access to cold chains. Food loss and waste amounts to billions of US dollars a year; not only wasting precious resources such as land, water, and energy, but also generating an estimated 8 per cent of total greenhouse gases per year globally.

By developing cold chain solutions that are more efficient, more climate friendly, and cheaper to buy and operate, cold chains will become more effective and widely available. This will provide producers such as farmers and pharmaceutical providers with access to



pre-cooling, refrigerated storage and refrigerated transport – ensuring products such as food and vaccines reach people in safe and good condition.

On this World Ozone Day, we celebrate and acknowledge the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment in its wider efforts to **keep us, our food, and vaccines cool!**

[Learn more >>>](#)

THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL -- MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER 16 September 2021

The Montreal Protocol began life as a mechanism to protect and heal the ozone layer. It has done its job well over the past three decades. The ozone layer is on the road to recovery. The cooperation we have seen under the Montreal Protocol is exactly what is needed now to take on climate change, an equally existential threat to our societies.

The Montreal Protocol is more than just an example of how multilateralism can and should work, it is an active tool to help meet our global vision for sustainable development. Under the Kigali Amendment to the Protocol, nations have committed to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), powerful greenhouse gases used as coolants. When fully implemented, the Kigali Amendment could prevent 0.4 degrees Celsius of global warming this century.

Furthermore, as we prepare for the Food Systems Summit this month, we are reminded that the Kigali Amendment can also help us to increase food security. By reducing HFCs, increasing energy efficiency and creating more ozone- and climate-friendly technologies, the Kigali Amendment can bring sustainable access to vital cooling services to millions of people.

Such services would reduce food loss in developing countries, where food often spoils before it can reach markets. Getting produce from farmers to where it is needed would help reduce hunger, poverty, and the environmental impact of the agricultural sector. Another important benefit of expanding cooling is storage of medicines and vaccines, such as are needed to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment show us that by acting together, anything is possible. So let us act now to slow climate change, feed the world's hungry and protect the planet that we all depend on.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR
WORLD OZONE DAY 2021**



Transcript

Inger Andersen message for World Ozone Day 2021

Today, on World Ozone Day, we celebrate the work of the Montreal Protocol – the international agreement banning substances that destroyed the ozone layer.

This united global effort protected human and ecosystem health by allowing the ozone layer to begin the long process of healing. But the Montreal Protocol also plays a key role in fighting another major planetary challenge: climate change.

As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change made clear in August, climate change is here, now. Nobody is safe. It is getting worse faster. We must treat climate change as an immediate threat and use every lever we can to slow global heating.

The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol is one such lever.

The Kigali Amendment targets the phase down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), potent greenhouse gases used in the cooling industry. If nations fully implement the Amendment, they could avoid up to 0.4° Celsius of global warming by the end of the century.

The Amendment also provides an opportunity to improve energy efficiency in the cooling sector – potentially doubling the climate gains from replacing HFCs. This would not only slow climate change. It would allow the sustainable expansion of cold chain in developing

countries – increasing food security by reducing food waste and loss and allowing the storage of vaccines and other medicines.

The Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment are undoubtedly critical processes that complement the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.

On World Ozone Day, I call on every nation and business to work tirelessly to meet the goals of the Kigali Amendment and help to build a better and cooler world.

[The United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\), September 2021](#)

**LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF UNEP OZONACTION TO NATIONAL OZONE OFFICERS FOR
WORLD OZONE DAY 2021**

Dear National Ozone Officers,

I sincerely hope that you, your families, and colleagues are all well and keeping healthy during this challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we all know, the past year has been extremely difficult for the entire world, including the tragic loss of life, the economic impacts, and the social disruptions that have affected so many countries.

People have struggled on both the professional and personal levels to cope with this difficult and complex situation. However, despite these challenges, the entire Montreal Protocol community has shown remarkable resilience and strength over the past year – the treaty has continued to do its work, countries are meeting their commitments, and the ozone layer and climate system are being protected by your actions.

I wish to commend you and your team in the National Ozone Unit for your dedication, hard work and steadfast commitment to continue meeting your country's compliance commitments, reporting data, and implementing project activities during this period. This "continuity in the face of adversity" makes the Montreal Protocol a shining example that governments and dedicated individuals can continue to protect the global environment even during a pandemic.

We have an excellent opportunity to share this positive example very soon: World Ozone Day (WOD), 16 September. This year's theme is the Montreal Protocol - Keeping us, our food, and vaccines cool! The refrigeration cold chain is absolutely essential for all countries, and it has a direct relationship on reducing food loss and food waste, protecting public health, and supporting the economy.

The Montreal Protocol is closely linked to this critical sector and WOD is an excellent time to shine the spotlight on this often overlooked sector. The OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) is pleased to share with you the following information resources that may be useful for your WOD celebrations and beyond:

- **[Cold Chain Technology Brief - Vaccines](#)**: This brief was developed by OzonAction and the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR) to introduce the vaccine cold chain to National Ozone Officers, government policy-makers, and refrigeration and air conditioning stakeholders. It provides an overview of vaccine temperature control, types of different vaccine cold chain applications, good operational practices of vaccine cold chain



applications, types of refrigerants being used, and challenges related to this sector. The brief is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

The cold chain technology briefs produced earlier by OzonAction and IIR cover all other cold chain sub-sectors and may be suitable for use as part of the WOD celebrations: [Production & Processing, Cold Storage, Transport Refrigeration, Commercial & Domestic, and Fishing Vessels](#). Those briefs are available in English, French and Spanish.

- [Cold Chain Database Methodology](#): This database was developed by OzonAction and the Global Food Cold Chain Council (GFCCC) to assist developing countries to thoroughly map the use of refrigerants and related technologies within the many different cold-chain sub-sectors. The Database also offers the unique opportunity to connect Montreal Protocol business with the relevant sustainable development goals related to food security, sustainable consumption and energy saving. Thanks to the support of the six pilot countries, namely Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Maldives, North Macedonia, Paraguay and Senegal, the database methodology and questionnaires are now validated and ready to be used by any interested countries. Should your country be interested in using the Cold Chain Database, it could include its intention to do so in public announcements related to WOD.

- [OzonAction Knowledge Maps tool](#): This new tool was developed to provide National Ozone Units and others with easy access to data about relevant stakeholders involved in the implementation of programmes and projects under the Montreal Protocol. One of the maps lists professional and industry associations worldwide who are key partners for ensuring the safe and efficient transition to more environmentally friendly refrigeration and air conditioning technology.

Beyond these resources, OzonAction also has a wide range of other existing information and awareness raising materials that could also be used for your national celebrations. Please refer to the WOD webpage on the OzonAction website for examples.

As 16 September fast approaches, please consider what type of activities would be practical in your country given the COVID-19 conditions, and how to engage the general public and key stakeholder groups such as the refrigeration and air conditioning sector, digital online celebrations, webinars, etc. or through acceptable minimal gatherings according to national health guidelines.

We would appreciate receiving your country's WOD activities or reports for posting on our website. Last year we received almost 50 WOD reports from countries with varied activities, which were carefully organized while keeping in mind the pandemic restrictions. All the reports are featured on [OzonAction website](#). Please send this information to your Network's Montreal Protocol Regional Coordinator and/or directly to Ms. Jo Chona (jo.chona@un.org).

Once again, we thank you for your ongoing commitment to maintaining compliance with the Montreal Protocol and your excellent work in implementing your national strategies and projects. While marking its 30th Anniversary of providing compliance assistance, OzonAction remains committed and proud to be of service to you.

On behalf of the entire OzonAction CAP team, I wish you great success in this year's WOD celebration!

Yours sincerely,
James S. Curlin
Head of OzonAction
UNEP Law Division

[The United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\), OzonAction, September 2021](#)

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