

OZONews

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & implementation of the Montreal Protocol compiled by:
UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme, Paris

22 October 2001

Table of Contents:

- 1- Thirteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, Colombo, Sri Lanka; 16-19 October 2001
 - 2- "Green" Chemicals Harming Ozone Layer
 - 3- 2001 Ozone Hole About the Same Size as Past Three Years
 - 4- Interaction of Climate Change and Ozone Depletion Multiplies Risks
 - 5- Investigators Expose Smuggling of Ozone Depleting Chemicals
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1- Thirteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, Colombo, Sri Lanka; 16-19 October 2001

Web links to special pages covering the event:

Ozone Secretariat: <http://www.unep.org/ozone/13mop.shtml>

I I S D: <http://www.iisd.ca/ozone/mop13/>

Useful links:

Ozone Secretariat: <http://www.unep.org/ozone/links.shtml>

UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme: <http://www.unepie.org/ozonaction/home.html>

T E A P: <http://www.teap.org/>

2- "Green" Chemicals Harming Ozone Layer

Four chemicals being marketed as harmless to the ozone layer may be nothing of the sort, new research suggests. As evidence grows that the ozone hole over the Antarctic is not healing as expected, an international coalition of governments will discuss this week whether to ban them. Top of the list is *n*-propyl bromide, a new solvent approved in 1997 by the US Environmental Protection Agency as an acceptable substitute for ozone-depleting substances such as CFCs. The chemical was known to be a potential ozone-eater, but it survives in the environment for less than a fortnight, so regulators assumed it could not reach the ozone layer. But Donald Wuebbles of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and others have since warned that when the substance is released in the tropics, the dynamic weather systems there can launch it into the stratosphere within days. Even if the chemical breaks down in the lower atmosphere, they say, it could still be churning out by-products that react with ozone-depleting bromine and help transfer it into the stratosphere...

Full Text @: <http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99991438>

Source: NewScientist.com, 17 October 2001 By: Fred Pearce

3- 2001 Ozone Hole About the Same Size as Past Three Years

Satellite data show the area of this year's Antarctic ozone hole peaked at about 26 million square kilometers -- roughly the size of North America -- making the hole similar in size to those of the past three years, according to scientists from NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Researchers have observed a leveling-off of the hole size and predict a slow recovery... Total recovery of the ozone layer to levels observed before 1980 will take at least 50 years, and expected changes in climate, including a cooler stratosphere, could delay this process...

Full Text @: <http://www.gsfc.nasa.gov/topstory/20011016ozonelayer.html>

Source: NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center, 16 October 2001

4- Interaction of Climate Change and Ozone Depletion Multiplies Risks

Together, climate change and ozone depletion is proving to be a lethal combination likely to significantly increase the hazards to health and environment, beyond current projections, according to emerging research... Rising

temperatures could also accentuate the effects of UV radiation linked with increased incidence of eye cataracts and reduced effectiveness of the immune system in fighting infection. Ozone depletion also contributes to photochemical smog; and environmentally, is linked to global warming processes when an accumulation of ozone occurs lower down in the atmosphere following breakdown of ozone in the upper atmosphere...

Full Text @: <http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/4797.cfm>

Source: Environmental Data Interactive Exchange (Edie), 12 October 2001

5- Investigators Expose Smuggling of Ozone Depleting Chemicals

There is evidence of a thriving illegal trade in CFCs and other ozone depleting substances across Asia, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) revealed today. This has been identified as part of a "dramatic increase" in smuggling across developing countries, by the independent, international campaigning organization that investigates and exposes environmental crime. The illegal trade in ozone depleting substances is undermining the global effort to phase out these chemicals under the Montreal Protocol, the international treaty to limit destruction of the Earth's ozone layer. The EIA report is timed to coincide with the meeting next week in Colombo, Sri Lanka of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol...

Full Text @: <http://ens.lycos.com/ens/oct2001/2001L-10-12-02.html>

Source: Environmental News Service (ENS), 12 October 2001

OzoNews is also available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:

<http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/compliance/ozonews/main.html>

United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics (UNEP DTIE) OzonAction Programme provides OzoNews as a free service to help keep readers informed about current news relating to ozone depletion and the implementation of the Montreal Protocol. The goal of OzoNews is to provide information, stimulate discussion and promote cooperation in support of compliance with the Montreal Protocol. With the exception of items written by UNEP and occasional contributions solicited from other organizations, the news is sourced from on-line newspapers, journals and websites. The views expressed in articles written by external authors are solely the viewpoints of those authors and do not represent the policy or viewpoint of UNEP. While UNEP strives to avoid inclusion of misleading or inaccurate information, it is ultimately the responsibility of the reader to evaluate the accuracy of any news article in OzoNews. The citing of commercial technologies, products or services does not constitute endorsement of those items by UNEP.

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