



International Ozone Day 1999: "Save O₃ur Sky: Be Ozone Friendly"

"Being ozone friendly" means taking individual action to reduce and eliminate impacts on the stratospheric ozone layer caused by the products that you buy, the appliances and equipment that your household or business uses, or the manufacturing process used by your company. Products made with, or containing ozone depleting substances (ODS) such as CFCs, HCFCs, halons, methyl chloroform and methyl bromide can contribute to ozone layer depletion.

The following list describes some actions individuals can take to help protect the ozone layer:

- **Be an ozone-friendly consumer.** Buy products (aerosol spray cans, refrigerators, fire extinguishers, etc.) that are labelled "ozone friendly" or "CFC free". The product labels should indicate that they do not contain ozone depleting substances such as CFCs or halons. Ask for more information from the seller to ensure that the product is ozone friendly. Tell your neighbor that you are the proud owner of "ozone friendly" products.
- **Be an ozone-friendly homeowner.** Dispose of old refrigerators and appliances responsibly. CFC and HCFC refrigerants should be removed from an appliance before its is discarded (ask the public works department in your town or a home appliance dealer about appliance refrigerant recovery programmes). Portable halon fire extinguishers that are no longer needed should be returned to your fire protection authority for recycling. Consider purchasing new fire extinguishers that do not contain halon (e.g. dry powder) as recommended by your fire protection authority.
- **Be an ozone-friendly farmer.** If you use methyl bromide for soil fumigation, consider switching to effective and safe alternatives that are currently being used in many countries to replace this ozone-damaging pesticide. Consider options such as integrated pest management that do not rely on costly chemical inputs. If you don't currently use methyl bromide, don't begin to use it now (you will have to get rid of it in the future).
- **Be an ozone-friendly refrigeration servicing technician.** Ensure that refrigerant you recover from air conditioners, refrigerators or freezer during servicing is not "vented" or released to the atmosphere. Regularly check and fix leaks before they become a problem. Help start a refrigerant recovery and recycling programme in your area.

- **Be an ozone-friendly office worker.** Help your company identify which existing equipment (e.g. water coolers, air conditioners, cleaning solvents, fire extinguishers), and what products it buys (aerosol sprays, foam cushions/mattresses, paper correct fluid) use ozone depleting substances, and develop a plan for replacing them with cost-effective alternatives. Become an environmental leader within your office.
- **Be an ozone-friendly company.** Replace ozone depleting substances used on your premises and in your manufacturing processes (contact your National Ozone Unit to see if you are eligible for financial and technical assistance from the Multilateral Fund). If your products contain ozone depleting substances, change your product formulation to use alternative substances that do not destroy the ozone layer.
- **Be an ozone-friendly teacher.** Inform your students about the importance of protecting the environment and in particular the ozone layer. Teach students about the damaging impact of ozone depleting substances on the atmosphere, the health impacts, and what steps are being taken internationally and nationally to solve this problem. Encourage your students to spread the message to their families.
- **Be an ozone-friendly community organizer.** Inform your family, neighbors and friends about the need to protect the ozone layer and help them get involved. Work with non-governmental organizations to help start information campaigns and technical assistance projects to phase out ozone depleting substances in your city, town or village.
- **Be an ozone-friendly citizen.** Read and learn more about the effects of ozone depletion on people, animals and the environment, your national strategy and policies to implement the Montreal Protocol, and what the phase out of ozone depleting substances means to your country. Get in touch with your country's National Ozone Unit and learn how you can get involved on an individual level.
- **Be ozone friendly:** SO₃S -- Save our Skies.

Contact your National Ozone Unit to learn more. To obtain the contact for your National Ozone Unit and other information, visit the following UNEP web sites: TIE OzonAction Programme - <http://www.unepie.org/ozonaction.html>, Ozone Secretariat - <http://www.unep.org/unep/secretar/ozone/home.htm>

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