



calls for an immediate HFC phase-down under the Montreal Protocol

We are a global initiative of companies called **Refrigerants Naturally!** committed to combat climate change and depletion of the ozone layer by replacing environmentally harmful fluorinated gases ('F-gases' such as CFCs, HCFCs and HFCs) with natural refrigerants.

Membership in the initiative includes McDonald's, PepsiCo, Red Bull, The Coca-Cola Company and Unilever. The initiative is supported by Greenpeace and by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).*

The **key goal** of the initiative is to promote a shift in point-of-sale cooling technologies (beverage coolers/vendors and ice-cream freezers) towards natural refrigerants. This sector represents a significant portion of F-gas refrigerant use. Natural refrigerants are naturally occurring substances that can be used as cooling agents in refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment. These substances include hydrocarbons (e.g. propane, iso-butane and cyclopentane), CO₂, water and ammonia. They have a very low or zero global warming potential (GWP) and a zero ozone depletion potential (ODP).

Through our activities we are demonstrating that natural refrigerants are sustainable and economical viable alternatives to HFCs and HCFCs.

Furthermore, natural refrigerant-based equipment currently used or tested by our companies is typically more energy-efficient than HFC- and HCFC-based equipment. They are able to achieve long-term cost benefits, decrease energy-related global warming effects and have no or minimal global warming effects resulting from refrigerant emissions.

A clear and strong signal to the market is needed to avoid HFCs and HFOs. The Refrigerants, Naturally! member companies and Greenpeace do not consider HFCs and HFOs as suitable alternatives to HCFCs for a variety of technical, environmental and financial reasons.

If HFCs replace ozone-depleting gases, their contribution to global warming will lead to irreversible environmental consequences. It is in the direct interest of developing countries to choose long-term and sustainable replacements for HCFCs. Natural refrigerants offer long term solutions to meeting our cooling needs.

The Refrigerants, Naturally! member companies support the proposed amendments to include HFCs in the Montreal Protocol in cooperation with the UNFCCC. An international agreement to bring HFCs into the regulatory regime of the Montreal Protocol would be an important step towards a phase-down and eventual phase out of these substances.

Natural refrigerant based technologies have been commercially available for all point-of-sale applications for some time now and will continue to penetrate the market.

But a strong support from political decision makers for climate and environment-friendly refrigeration and air-conditioning is also needed to further accelerate their market uptake!

We, the five member companies, would be pleased to share with any interested party our partnership's experience to date in applying alternative HFC-free refrigeration technologies in our sectors, and are open to discussing with you options that could encourage the emergence of more climate-friendly practices in the future.

**The following policy statement does not reflect the position of UNEP.*

