



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Australia's report in relation to Article 9 of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

August 2009

Australia ratified the Montreal Protocol in May 1989 and all subsequent amendments. Australia meets its international obligations to phase out ozone depleting substances and to control the use of synthetic greenhouse gas replacements through the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989*.

Ozone-friendly alternatives or alternatives technologies

Australia provides financial assistance through the Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund, to assist developing countries to comply with the phase out requirements under the protocol. Australia directs part of its contribution to the Multilateral Fund into providing direct technical and financial assistance to other countries in the region. This year, Australia continued to assist Pacific Island countries to meet their obligations under the Montreal Protocol, including helping them to develop legislation to control imports of ozone depleting substances and training for customs officers.

Australia has a bilateral relationship with Indonesia through the Joint Working Group on the Environment and agreed in 2005 to assist Indonesia on ozone related matters. The Indonesian Ministry of Environment and the Australian Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts exchanged information in 2007 on ways to address illegal trade of ozone depleting substances, on import licensing and audit systems and on reporting guidelines and disposal procedures and facilities within Australia.

Australia has also assisted Indonesia to develop its HCFC phase-out management plan and in February 2009 Australia jointly co-hosted with UNDP the inception workshop on the phase-out of HCFCs in Indonesia. The Australian Government assisted a number of Australian industry representatives to attend this workshop and also provided information on Australia's regulatory system and on product stewardship of ODS and SGGs in Australia.

Promoting research and development of alternative to ODS

Since 2007, the Australian Government has facilitated an Ozone Science Group comprising ozone scientists in Australia, in order to assist them to coordinate research activities related to ozone science, to share information on recent developments and to encourage Australian contributions to international ozone science. In 2009, the Australian Government also introduced a supplementary scholarship scheme aimed at promoting postgraduate research into matters of relevance to the science of stratospheric ozone depletion and recovery. It is intended that this award be made each year to a new student commencing post-graduate study.

In 2007, the Australian Government commissioned a study of Australia's bank of ODS and SGG. The report was released publicly in June 2008. The report details the size and growth of the ODS bank across a number of different industries and estimates emissions from that bank in ODP and CO2 equivalent units. It also explores the scope for growth in the recovery and destruction of gases at the end of life. This report will be very useful to both industry and the public for preparing them for the phase out of HCFCs over the coming decade and is publicly available on the following website:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/atmosphere/ozone/publications/ods-sgg-report.html>

An Australian Government research project to obtain data on emissions of ODS and SGGs from landfill is being finalised this year. The data will help to fill a knowledge gap on emission losses from end-of-life of equipment over time. The data will be used to refine existing models, which contribute towards formulating Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

A similar research project to obtain data on emissions of ODS and SGGs from motor vehicles while at rest (i.e. stationary), is also being finalised. This data will help to further knowledge on the Melbourne road transport fleet, as measured in the Domain Tunnel and in underground car parks. The data will be used to refine existing models, which contribute towards formulating Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

Funding is being provided by the Australian Government for the development of training and assessment materials to support fire protection industry competencies. The program commenced in 2008 and will be finalised in 2010.

In 2008, the Australian Government invested \$1.2 million to assist existing refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians meet new national licence requirements; requirements which are aimed at reducing emissions of ODS and SGGs. Funding for the EPLTP was provided to five organisations across Australia in 2008-09 and has been particularly focussed on geographic areas that have had limited access to these services. Additional information on the EPLTP can be found at the following website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/atmosphere/ozone/experienced-persons.html>

Promotion of public awareness of the environmental effects of the emissions of ODS and other awareness raising activities

In September 2007, the Department hosted a seminar to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol with representatives from the Australian science community, industry, Australian Government and non-government organisations attending. The seminar was opened by the then Minister for the Environment. The seminar was followed by a technical workshop on Methyl Bromide and its alternatives and the first meeting of the Ozone Science Group.

In May 2008, the Department held a seminar on the role of ozone depletion in Australia's changing climate entitled "The Whole Truth". This seminar was held in both Melbourne and Canberra and was aimed at both government officials and the scientific community.

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency in conjunction with the Bureau of Meteorology release daily solar UV radiation levels and ozone forecasts. The Australian UV and ozone forecasting system supports the Australian UV Index. This is particularly important for the Australian public as Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer reported per year.

The daily solar UV radiation levels can be accessed at the following website:
<http://www.arpana.gov.au/uvindex/index.cfm>

The daily ozone forecasts can be accessed from the website below:
<http://www.bom.gov.au/bmrc/mdev/expt/uvindex/SH.htm>

The Australian Government's ozone website is located at <http://www.environment.gov.au>, and contains information on Australia's regulations, licensing systems, role in the Montreal Protocol, and also contains weekly updates of the progress of the Antarctic hole from September to December each year.