

YOUR OZONE WEBSITE

Over the last several years, the Ozone Secretariat website has become a primary source of information on the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol for many Parties and visitors alike. At last count, the Ozone Secretariat website was visited an average of 10,000 times a month. Knowing the importance of the site to the Parties and the public, the Secretariat makes an effort to update it on a regular basis and strives to make it as easy to navigate as possible. In an effort to enhance the utilization of the website by all, the Secretariat has prepared this short brochure, which reviews the items that can be found on each of the main links of the website. We hope that you find both the website and this brochure to be useful and we would be glad to consider any ideas you may have to make the site even more useful in the years ahead.

Ozone Secretariat Link

At the top centre of the website you will find a link to the Ozone Secretariat which provides information on the Secretariat itself, as well as individual staff members.

NEW

Immediately below the Ozone Secretariat link is a large red NEW symbol. Click on this to see the most recent documents and other items that have been added to the website.

Globe

A picture of the globe surrounded by an ozone shield sits at the centre of our website. Click on the globe or the shield and you will be sent to a page of links that provide overviews and technical information on the ozone layer.

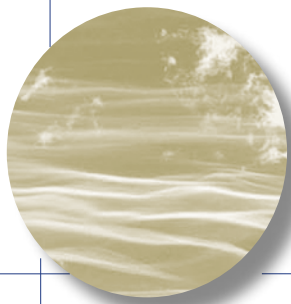


Montreal Protocol Handbook

The first link on the left hand side of the site takes the reader to the Montreal Protocol Handbook. This important document has become the authoritative guide to the Protocol itself as well as to the many decisions taken by the Parties to the Protocol. The Secretariat has recently upgraded this section of the website to include a new browsable and searchable version of the handbook that will allow Parties to find information in a more flexible manner.

Data Reporting/Access

The data reporting and access section includes all of the forms that Parties need to submit data under Article 7. It also includes, in its second sub-link, a "Data Access Centre" which allows users to see production and consumption information submitted by the Parties in accordance with Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol. Users can enter queries on Parties, years and groups of substances of concern to obtain information tailored to their research needs. This section also includes separate links with information reported by the Parties on new ozone depleting substances, Parties not wishing to receive specific products and equipment relying on Annex A or B substances, reclamation facilities and national focal points for licensing systems for trade in ozone depleting substances.



Ratification Status

This section of the website contains up to date authoritative information on the ratification status of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol and its amendments, as well as countries that have not yet ratified any of these instruments. It also has sub-links allowing the reader to determine quickly which Parties operate under paragraph 1 of Article 5 of the Protocol.

Vienna Convention Handbook

The Vienna Convention handbook, which was first produced in a standalone form in 2006, is, like the Montreal Protocol handbook, the authoritative guide to the Convention itself and to the many decisions taken by the Parties to the Vienna Convention. The Secretariat has recently upgraded this section of the website to include a new navigating tool to enable Parties to search the handbook for specific information.

Frequently Asked Questions

This section of the website contains answers to frequently asked questions on the ozone layer (Prepared by the Scientific Assessment Panel), compliance related issues (prepared by the Ozone Secretariat) and the effects of ozone depletion (Prepared by the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel).

Events/Meetings/Past Awardees

Possibly the most important information in this section of the website is the Secretariat's indicative list of meetings for the upcoming two years, which it produces in accordance with the decisions of the Parties. The section also includes an indicative list of TEAP meetings and historical information on the venue and timing of past meetings. Themes and information on activities carried out by the Parties to celebrate International Ozone Day can also be found on this link, as can information on winners of recognition awards that have in the past been given out by the Ozone Secretariat.

Exemption Information

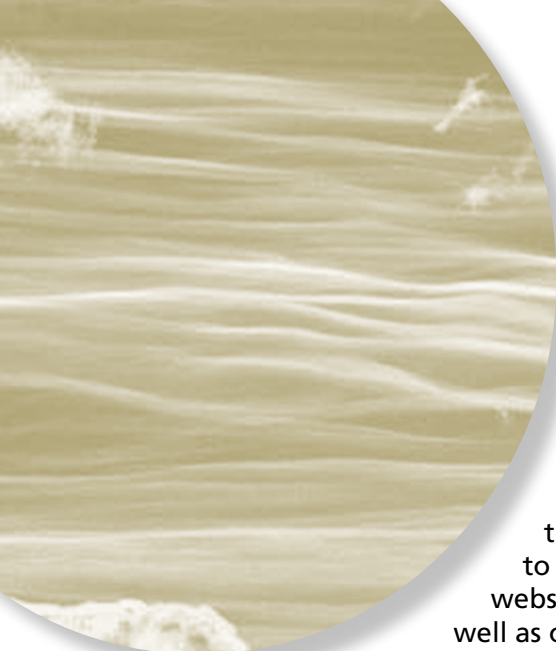
This section includes information on exemptions from the Protocol's production and consumption requirements. It is here that the Parties will find forms that should be used to submit nominations for essential use exemptions and critical use exemptions. This section also includes information on the extent of past exemptions and the list of decisions delineating the uses that no longer qualify for the global laboratory and analytical use exemption.

Upcoming Meetings' Documentation

This section of the website provides quick and easy access for documents related to the upcoming meetings.

Historical Meetings' Documentation

This section of the website provides access to all of the meeting documents that have been issued for past meetings, including the reports of the meetings. The Secretariat is starting what is expected to be a multi year process of updating the list of documents for historical meetings by, when possible, uploading documents released at meetings, including conference room papers. This would help researchers and Parties get a better understanding of the genesis of decisions taken by the Parties.



Assessment Panel/Documents

The Protocol's independent panels (the Scientific Assessment Panel, the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel) have become one of the key pillars of the Montreal Protocol, providing information that allows the parties to take informed decisions on ozone related matters. This section of the website includes all of the available reports of the panels noted above as well as contact information for all members of the panels.

Publications

This section includes a selection of Ozone related publications. Some of these can be downloaded and some are available for purchase through the auspices of an independent contractor that sells United Nations documents under a licensing arrangement with the United Nations.

Links

This component of the website has links to the sites of various governments and organizations that may be useful to the Parties or other users. The Secretariat would be pleased to consider the addition of other links that the Parties believe should be included.

Variable Features of the Website

The website has several features that will change over time as the demand dictates. In 2007, for example, these include sections on twentieth anniversary activities and contests, and e forums. These features will be changed from time to time depending on how heavily they are used and the changing needs of the Parties.

