

Detailed Case study information

Lifecycle refrigerant management

Description	Founded in 2022 with funding from the International Climate Initiative (IKI), the Climate and Ozone Protection Alliance (COPA) focuses on the holistic management of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) banks. The Alliance connects governments, the private sector, academia, civil society and financial institutions to advance practical solutions, financing pathways and policy approaches for the environmentally sound end-of-life management of refrigerants. COPA's work complements the objectives of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments (including the Kigali Amendment), supporting countries to quantify banks, enable safe recovery and storage, and implement reclamation or destruction options.
Achievements	COPA brings together 82 members spanning government, industry, research institutions, civil society organizations and finance. The Alliance has substantially raised global awareness of end-of-life management for refrigerants and highlighted the urgency to avoid emissions from leakages and venting at end-of-life and the huge mitigation potential. COPA has published extensive resource materials—such as practical guidance, training materials and policy notes—covering methodologies for establishing inventories, safe recovery, storage and transport procedures, destruction technologies, financing models and options for establishing national systems. Through technical working groups, knowledge exchanges and events, COPA has helped initiate partnerships for pilot actions and the scaling of effective practices.
Benefits	- Safer refrigerant recovery: Standardized procedures, qualified training and appropriate equipment enhance safe recovery, reducing risks for workers and the environment. - Reduced emissions from old appliances: recovery and treatment of refrigerants prevents releases of high-global-warming-potential gases and ODS, directly contributing to climate and ozone protection. - Stronger waste management capacity: Building infrastructure, processes and competencies for hazardous waste handling strengthens national disposal and recycling systems, supports circular economy approaches and improves traceability across the value chain.
Next steps	While the initiating project ended in 2025, the Alliance continues through its members. Priorities include: - Scale up technical solutions and infrastructure: Expand proven solutions for recovery, safe storage, transport and destruction, alongside quality and safety standards. - Expand capacity building and training programs: Broaden training and certification for service technicians, waste operators and authorities to professionalize ODS/HFC flows management. - Strengthen policy frameworks and national strategies: Support countries in developing and implementing strategies, regulations and enforcement mechanisms for ODS/HFC banks, including monitoring and reporting systems. - Support international cooperation under the Montreal Protocol: Deepen cooperation and knowledge transfer—through pilots, South–South exchange and mobilization of finance—to enable sustainable end-of-life management.
Source	Climate and Ozone Protection Alliance - COPA