



[Side Event at OEWG48]

Preparing the Servicing Sector for HFC Alternatives to Support Kigali Implementation

Co-organisers: Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

Contact: Gerry George (ggeorge@nrdcindia.org) and Akash Goenka (agoenka@nrdcindia.org), NRDC India

Date & time: Wednesday, 15 July 2026, 18:00 - 20:00 local time

Venue: MR-A, United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), ESCAP, United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok, Thailand

About the event: The transition to low-GWP refrigerants under the Kigali Amendment is increasing the use of refrigerants that may be flammable and/or toxic, making workforce readiness a critical component of successful implementation. However, technician training and certification systems remain fragmented and insufficient in many A5 Parties, particularly with respect to the safe handling of HFC alternatives. This side event will showcase experiences and best practices from both A5 and non-A5 Parties in developing and implementing service technician training and certification programmes. It will highlight effective approaches for building a skilled and certified servicing workforce capable of safely handling HFC alternatives, including flammable refrigerants. The discussion will focus on key lessons, enabling policies, institutional arrangements, and capacity-building models that can help Parties strengthen servicing-sector readiness and support Kigali Amendment implementation. Servicing-sector strengthening and capacity building are increasingly aligned with broader discussions under the Montreal Protocol on life-cycle refrigerant management, energy efficiency, and regional centres of excellence. Insights on technician training, certification, and licensing will be particularly valuable for A5 Parties seeking to build stronger servicing ecosystems and scale certified servicing programmes to support the transition.

Objectives:

- Share country experiences and best practices in technician training and certification for HFC alternatives
- Identify opportunities to strengthen servicing ecosystems in A5 Parties through certification, capacity building, and regional approaches

Agenda:

18:00 - 18:30	Networking over refreshments
18:30 - 18:35	Welcome and opening remarks by Denise San Valentin, CCAC
18:35 - 18:40	Context setting by Akash Goenka, NRDC India
18:40 - 19:40	Roundtable discussion moderated by Natarajan Rajendran, Co-Chair, Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps Technical Options Committee and Life-Cycle Refrigerant Management Task Force
19:40 - 20:00	Q&A and audience discussion

Roundtable discussants

1. Mr. Leslie Smith, National Ozone Officer, Grenada
2. Ms. Miruza Mohamed, Deputy Director General & National Ozone Officer, Maldives
3. Mr. Marco Buoni, Past President (International Affairs), European Association of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heat Pump Contractors (AREA)
4. Mr. Pipat Poopeerasupong, Regional Coordinator, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Thailand
5. Mr. Bassam Elassaad, Senior Expert Member, Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps Technical Options Committee (RTOC) and Life-Cycle Refrigerant Management (LCRM) Task Force
6. Mr. Roberto Peixoto, Co-Chair, Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps Technical Options Committee (RTOC)
7. Ms. Mairin Herm, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
8. Ms. Miki Yamanaka, Senior Manager, CSR & Global Environment Center, Daikin, Japan
9. Mr. Marco Durán Herrera, Head of Policy and Global Partnerships, International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR)
10. Mr. Stephen Andersen, Director of Research, Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development (IGSD)
11. Ms. Clare Suzanne Perry, Climate Campaign Leader, Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), United Kingdom
12. Ms. Igobe Mbulawa, National Ozone Officer, Botswana
13. Mr. Steven McKee, President, Labtech International Ltd.
14. Ms. Bettina Schreck, Member, Medical and Chemicals Assessment Panel (MCAP)
15. Mr. Ayman Eltalouny, Senior Programme Management Officer, Multilateral Fund Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
16. Ms. Kylie Farrelley, General Manager, Refrigerant Reclaim Australia