

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL:
AUSTRALIA'S NOTABLE CONTRIBUTION IN WORLD ECOLOGY

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol) is an international agreement made in 1987. It was designed to stop the production and import of ozone depleting substances and reduce their concentration in the atmosphere to help protect the earth's ozone layer. It sets out a mandatory timetable for the phase out of ozone depleting substances. The Montreal Protocol is widely considered as the most successful environment protection agreement.

Australia was one of the first countries to ratify the Montreal Protocol and it continues to be a leader in the phase out of ozone depleting substances. In many cases, Australia is well ahead of Montreal Protocol requirements. Australia consumes 61 per cent less greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 than required under the Montreal Protocol. 40 million tones – the amount of the emissions Australia has avoided since 1995.

There's the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts in Australia, which is the Government agency responsible for coordinating national ozone protection measures and administering the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989.

The Australian Government also owns Australia's National Halon Bank which reclaims halon, maintains a stock for essential uses and disposes of excess halon and other ozone depleting substances. Industry has also been strongly engaged in Australia's efforts to phase out ozone depleting substances and minimize the emissions of ozone depleting substances.

Australia takes an active role in ongoing Montreal Protocol negotiations, ensuring that further actions to protect the ozone layer are scientifically based and technically feasible. Australia is a member of the 14 member Executive Committee

which manages the Fund on a cost-effective basis. Australia has contributed over \$97 million to the Multilateral Fund since 1991. As part of its contribution to the Multilateral Fund, Australia also undertakes a number of bilateral projects in developing countries. These projects use Australian skills and technology and help to raise the profile of Australian know-how and expertise regarding ozone protection initiatives.

Australia is a party to important decision-making bodies within the Protocol framework. An active role allows Australia a degree of influence over the nature and direction of global ozone protection issues.

Many Australian experts have been recognized for their contribution to the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, the work they have done in helping Australia meet its phase-out obligations and for their international contribution to phase-out the use of ozone depleting substances.

Much remains to be done to ensure the continued recovery of the ozone layer and to reduce the impact of ozone-depleting substances on the Earth's climate. But the prospects for the long-term recovery of the ozone layer are good. Scientists predict that if the international community continues to comply with the Montreal Protocol the ozone layer should fully recover between 2050 and 2065. And Australia has been playing a crucial role in that regard.