

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

Brief History of the Montreal Protocol

The Montreal Protocol came into existence on September 16th 1987. This agreement was initially signed by a group of countries concerned with the rate at which the earth's protective shield (The Ozone Layer) was being depleted. This agreement governs the protection of the Ozone Layer through various activities aimed at phasing out the production and consumption of harmful chemicals responsible for the depletion of the Ozone Layer.

The Montreal Protocol has achieved universal participation with 197 countries as parties and has proven to be one of the most outstanding environmental agreements to date.

National Response

The National Ozone Unit (NOU) of St.Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) within the Sustainable Development Unit, Ministry of Economic Planning, Sustainable Development, Industry, Information and Labour was given the mandate to carry out all activities related to Ozone layer protection and implementation of the ideals of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

In fulfillment of the requirement of the Protocol SVG identified activities and initiatives that would be undertaken to achieve a total phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), including institutional strengthening, public awareness activities, development and enforcement of regulations, and training of key stakeholders.

Some of SVG's Achievements since Inception

- Completion of Terminal Phase-out Management Plan (TPMP) - Through the successful implementation of the TPMP, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was able to record zero imports of CFCs by December 2007, two years ahead of its scheduled deadline.
- Approval of the Hydrochlorofluorocarbon Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) - The HPMP for SVG was approved by the 64th Meeting of the Executive Committee on July 28th, 2011. SVG is the first country from the English speaking Caribbean and Latin American region that was granted approval for an accelerated phase-out of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).
- Continued successful implementation of a licensing and quota system, which is essential to maintain compliance under the Montreal Protocol.
- Establishment of the Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Technicians Association (RACTA) SVG.
- The establishment of a fully equipped and comprehensive refrigeration and air-conditioning laboratory at the Technical and Vocational Education Division of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Community College. It is the first of its kind in the Caribbean region and has been used as a benchmark for other islands. It is designed specifically to provide specialized training in environmental sound servicing, retrofitting, recovery, recycling and use of

alternatives to ozone depleting substances.

- By December 2013, importation of HCFCs was reduced by 36%: placing SVG three years ahead of the proposed phased out schedule of the HPMP.
- Established five (5) refrigeration and air-conditioning recovery centres within SVG.
- Training and certification of over 100 refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians in Good Practices, recovery, recycling and retrofitting of HCFCs, alternative technology and natural refrigerant with particular emphasis on hydrocarbon technology (HC), in recent years.
- Training of over 100 Customs officers in monitoring and control of ozone depleting substances and enforcement of the Montreal Protocol regulations.
- Development and distribution of ozone educational handbooks for children and adults.
- The successful phase-out and ban on the importation of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and equipment that use CFCs.