



Cleaner Cooling

The Partnership: Refrigerants Naturally

The Goal: To protect the Earth's climate and ozone layer, the partnership seeks to reduce the use of HFCs – hydrofluorocarbons – in cooling and air conditioning equipment.

The Result: Major multinational corporations have taken the initiative to change thousands of cooling units to HFC-free technologies. Some companies have installed HFC-free air conditioning units and have reconfigured their cooling systems.

How they did it: Started initially by McDonald's, the Coca-Cola Company and Unilever and supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and Greenpeace, the partnership has brought together members of the food and drink industry to discuss HFC-free refrigeration solutions – using viable technologies that employ hydrocarbons, carbon dioxide, thermo-acoustic and solar cooling – and provide a mechanism for exchanging information, while protecting confidentiality. Recently, Carlsberg, IKEA and Pepsico have also joined the partnership. The focus has primarily been on “point-of-sale” cooling technologies – the vending machines, coolers where drinks are stored, as well as supermarket freezers. The partnership has been working to show suppliers in various countries that there is sufficient demand for HFC-free technologies.

Outlook: Although costs for HFC-free equipment are still more expensive due to a small market, the companies in the partnership that have switched technologies have often found that they can achieve energy savings of 30-50 percent.

Background: As the demand for air conditioning and cooling equipment grows, particularly in developing countries, there is a need for widespread efforts to curb the use of HFCs, which are not naturally present in the atmosphere but are entirely manufactured. The Refrigerants Naturally partnership intends to send a strong signal to the supply chain to make the necessary developments and investments to move HFC-free technologies to successful commercial propositions.

For more information:

www.refrigerantsnaturally.com

<http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/1460.html>