



Climate Action Network

*CAN Briefing Paper:
Achieving an ambitious outcome on HFC
phasedown under the Montreal Protocol in
2016*

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Climate Action Network International (CAN) is the world's largest network of civil society organizations working together to promote government action to address the climate crisis, with more than 1100 members in over 120 countries. www.climatenetwork.org

2015 was a momentous year for multilateralism and for climate change policy making. Governments must now show strong ownership of the Paris Agreement by aligning policies, resources, institutions and legislation in support of the Paris Agreement.

An agreement by Parties to an HFC phasedown in 2016 during the October Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Montreal Protocol would represent a major and critical step in achieving the 1.5°C temperature goal agreed to in Paris.

A HFC phasedown would prevent 100 billion tons of CO₂-e by 2050, and avoided warming of up to 0.5°C by the end of the century; coupled with co-benefits in energy efficiency improvements for air conditioning, total mitigation could reach up to 200 billion tons of CO₂-e by 2050.

Many governments have already included actions to phase down HFCs within their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) under the Paris Agreement. CAN encourages other parties in the position to do so, to include national HFC phase down in their NDCs. This could be done during the time of revision of the INDCs particularly around the 2018 facilitative dialogue.

As with the previous and ongoing chemical phase-outs under the Montreal Protocol (CFCs and HCFCs respectively), developed nations will need to take the lead on an immediate and ambitious phase out schedule and provide enough funding to developing nations for a near-term freeze and rapid national transitions to appropriate environmentally friendly alternative compounds and technologies.

Background

Pursuant to the agreement by Parties during the 2015 MOP in Dubai to conclude an HFC agreement in 2016, negotiations were undertaken in April this year at the 37th Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG). The OEWG will resume in July in Vienna, Austria, prior to an

Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties, followed by the regular MOP in Kigali, Rwanda in October.

Four different HFC amendment proposals are pending (from Island States, North America, the EU, and India) exhibiting a wide range of phasedown schedules and varying levels of ambition for developed and developing countries.

Recommendations

CAN recommends the following key aspects be incorporated into the HFC amendment prior to its expected adoption at the October 2016 Meeting of the Parties in Kigali, Rwanda to maximize climate benefits:

- The agreement must set the most ambitious phasedown schedule, with the earliest start dates possible, for both developed (non-Article 5 Parties) and developing (Article 5 Parties) countries;
- Non-Article 5 Parties need to lead the way in setting an ambitious phasedown schedule in order to commercialize alternatives at competitive prices and to build confidence in the transition, particularly for developing countries;
- Non-Article 5 Parties must provide adequate funding and technology transfer under the Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund (MLF) to enable Article 5 Parties to comply with an ambitious phasedown schedule;
- Additional funding for Article 5 Parties should be made available to achieve energy efficiency gains when equipment is redesigned to use alternatives to HFCs. Proven, commercially viable and cost-effective technologies already exist for increasing efficiency in air conditioning and space cooling applications by as much as 50%.