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How Small And Medium-sized Enterprises In Developing Countries Can Protect The Ozone Layer

New Publication

February 2002 - Paris -- The phase out of ozone depleting substances in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is one of the remaining challenges facing developing countries in complying with the Montreal Protocol. Large numbers of SMEs are found in most developing countries, and because of their size and the nature of their business, they are often very difficult to reach and are hard to locate. To help these SMEs complying with the control measures of the treaty, the UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme has released a new publication entitled How small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries can protect the ozone layer.

This handbook assists owners, operators and employees of SMEs in developing countries in assessing whether their current operations involve the use of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). It also provides tools that show ways to substantially reduce and eventually eliminate ODS use.

Each section of the document addresses specific aspects of the four different ODS-using sectors: refrigeration and air conditioning, solvents, coatings and adhesives, foams and aerosols. The publication gives also case studies of SMEs that have successfully used alternatives. Finally the publication describes technical and policy options that an SME can consider and eventually adopt. Resources and relevant contacts are provided in case more information is needed.

As SMEs account for 80% of the economy in some countries, their activities taken as a whole will significantly increase the amount of ODS released into the atmosphere if left unchecked. This handbook hopes to facilitate the phase out of these damaging chemicals under the terms of the Montreal Protocol.

To ensure that the information is as widely available as possible, the OzonAction Programme is making the Handbook available on-line at www.uneptie.org/ozonaction.

This publication is part of the information exchange services provided by UNEP to developing countries to help them meet their ozone depleting substances phase-out obligations under the Montreal Protocol. The OzonAction Programme has developed a range of technical and policy publications to support this phase out and the transition to alternatives. UNEP provides other clearinghouse services (Training & Networking of ODS Officers) as well as assistance development of national ODS phase out strategies (Country Programmes), Institutional Strengthening support.

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