



# The Alliance

*for Responsible Atmospheric Policy*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Alliance Applauds Progress toward Montreal Protocol HFC Agreement**

**Vienna, Austria (July 25, 2016)** — The Alliance for Responsible Atmospheric Policy today applauded the progress made by governments working towards an international agreement to phase down hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) consumption as part of the Montreal Protocol treaty. “The negotiations are at a critical stage now as the Parties enter the final weeks to complete an agreement in 2016. The parties have cooperated to make significant progress in resolving implementation challenges and defining the outlines of a phase-down,” stated Lennox International’s John Hurst, who serves as the Alliance Chairman. “The Alliance encourages the Parties to continue their positive momentum and to remain flexible in negotiating the remaining elements of the phase-down mechanism.”

Early Sunday morning, the Parties to the Montreal Protocol completed nearly a week and a half of negotiations in Vienna in advance of one final formal negotiating session in October in Kigali, Rwanda. The Parties documented solutions to a list of implementation challenges, agreed to complete a cost-benefit analysis of an HFC phase-down and narrowed down baseline and freeze date options. Late last year, the Parties agreed under the Dubai Pathway framework to work towards an amendment to the Montreal Protocol in 2016 to manage HFCs and to promote a transition to alternative products that reduce impacts on the climate. The Parties have been considering the issue of HFC usage and emissions for more than six years.

“Industry appreciates the continued leadership provided by the US delegation, including Secretary of State John Kerry, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and Ambassador Jennifer Haverkamp, as well as the responsiveness shown by the Parties to each other’s views. A basic phase-down agreement is within reach. It will provide strong direction to industry regarding investment decisions, while promoting a manageable transition to technologies which support a healthy climate and ozone layer and viable industries in all countries,” added Kevin Fay, the Executive Director of the Alliance. “The Alliance is prepared to continue its active support for the negotiations in any way that assists the Parties to achieve consensus.”

HFCs were introduced in order to achieve a rapid phase out of ozone depleting substances and are used widely in air conditioners, refrigerators, foam insulation, technical aerosols, fire protection systems and other critical uses. Demand for these technologies continues to grow due to the expansion of emerging market economies and the added health, safety, comfort and productivity benefits these technologies provide.

The Montreal Protocol treaty was first signed on September 16, 1987, and is considered to be one of the most effective multilateral environment treaties ever negotiated. It is the only treaty in the United Nations system to which every country is a signatory. The Protocol’s success has been a result of its reliance on sound scientific reviews, ongoing technology assessments and a funding mechanism to assist developing countries. A hallmark of the treaty is the decades-long cooperation among governments, industry and the environment community.

## About the Alliance for Responsible Atmospheric Policy

The Alliance is an industry coalition organized in 1980 to address the issue of stratospheric ozone depletion and the production and use of fluorocarbon compounds. It is the leading voice of manufacturers, businesses and trade associations who make or use fluorinated gases for the global market. Today, Alliance member companies are leading the development of safe, efficient, next-generation, climate- and ozone-friendly technologies and applications. According to a recent study, the US fluorocarbon using and producing industries contribute more than \$158 billion annually in goods and services to the US economy, and provide employment to more than 700,000 individuals with an industry-wide payroll of more than \$32 billion. The Alliance represents companies across several sectors engaged in the development of economically and environmentally beneficial international and domestic policies regarding fluorinated gases. Alliance member companies, which represent more than 95 percent of US HFC production and a significant majority of the manufacturing and other user industries, have pledged their commitment to the research, development and commercialization of new technologies with low climate impact, and are supporting a global agreement under the Montreal Protocol to facilitate the orderly transition to such technologies.

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