

## Resolution on phasing out HFCs and H-CFCs

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly of 20th May  
1999 in Apeldoorn

### Text of the resolution

The General Assembly of the Climate Alliance recommends to all Member Municipalities to undertake everything they can to reduce further climate endangering substances. In particular that means abstaining from the procurement of products, appliances and installations containing CFCs, H-CFCs and HFCs.

In order to implement this, the European Secretariat of the Climate Alliance is requested to provide the necessary information on alternative products for the local authorities.

### Explanation

Due to the Europe-wide ban on chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) applications, which is aimed at protecting the stratospheric ozone layer, the partially halogenated CFCs (hydrochlorofluorocarbons, H-CFCs) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) have established themselves as substitute propellants since the early 1990s. These propellants only have a small ozone depletion potential (ODP) but continue to have a global warming potential (GWP) that is 100-5,000 times higher than that of CO<sub>2</sub>.

From country to country, these propellants contribute between 10 and 20 percent of the total national GWP!

The signatory states to the Montreal Protocol (on preventing ozone depletion) and the Kyoto Protocol (on combating global warming) have not only committed themselves to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but also to reducing other greenhouse gas emissions. These include hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) and partially halogenated chlorofluorocarbons (H-CFCs). However, the use of these propellants has grown since the 1995 baseline by an average of six to ten times. The EU-wide ban on H-CFCs that is due to enter into force between the years 2000 and 2004 is expected to lead to further growth in HFC applications due to partial switches to this substance, unless comprehensive political restrictions are implemented rapidly.

Berlin already adopted a policy phasing out the use of products and appliances containing H-CFCs and HFCs in 1991, and has in the meantime implemented this policy. Seven Austrian Länder and numerous municipalities did the same between 1995 and 1998. For some time now, Sweden only permits the use of polyurethane (PU) foams in building construction that are free of H-CFCs and HFCs. In Switzerland the same restriction applies to fire extinguishers. These policies have proven in practice that decisive climate protection measures can indeed be implemented.

Today, climate-friendly alternatives are available on the market for all applications at no or only slight extra cost, and are generally functionally equivalent. Extending the Climate Alliance commitment to include the immediate phase-out of these further greenhouse gases can thus make a major contribution to protecting the Earth's climate.

Adopting such a decision in the Climate Alliance may also serve to point the way for further, swifter measures throughout the European Union.