

The top ten achievements and milestones of the National Ozone Unit of Jamaica

1.0 Background

Jamaica became a party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1993. The National Ozone Unit (NOU) was established twenty-six (26) years ago in 1997 prior to the formation of NEPA to facilitate the phase out of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in Jamaica and is located at the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA). The phase out is part of obligations under the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, an agreement between countries to phase out the use of ODS within stipulated time frames.

The NOU is responsible for the coordination of Jamaica's Country Programme. It also acts as a liaison between the Jamaican Government and international bodies such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The UNDP is the lead implementing agency for the Hydrochlorofluorocarbon Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP), whilst the UNEP is the lead implementing agency for the Institutional Strengthening Project which provides funding for the remuneration of staff of the NOU, policy, legislative review and the building of regulatory and compliance capacity in relation to the Montreal Protocol.

Role of the NOU:

- To create and increase national awareness on ozone depleting substances
- To prepare annual reports on the consumption of ODS in Jamaica.
- To facilitate timely phase out of ODS consumption through the implementation of projects through assistance from the Multilateral Fund Secretariat (MLFS).
- To collaborate with the relevant ministries and agencies with respect to the establishment of policy instruments and legislation concerning controls on the consumption of ODS.

The top ten (10) achievements of Jamaica which have resulted from the dedicated work of the NOU, donors, public and private sector partners are as follows:

1. The NOU enabled Jamaica to phase out halons (fire suppressants which are ODS) in 2002.
2. Jamaica was one of four countries selected for the **2003 Outstanding National Ozone Unit Award** by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) OzonAction Programme.
3. The NOU enabled Jamaica to achieve complete phase out of CFCs as at 1 January 2006, four (4) years ahead of the 1 January 2010 Montreal Protocol schedule for developing countries.
4. Due to the work of the NOU and the success in achieving its targets, the nation received the *Montreal Protocol Exemplary Project Recognition Award* in 2007.
5. 2014: The Trade (Montreal Protocol) (Trade in Ozone Depleting Controlled Substances) Order was gazetted on 24 November 2014 to facilitate the timely phase-out of ODS.
6. 2016: In partnership with UNDP, Jamaica completely phased out the use of HCFC-141b, an ODS used in the manufacture of foam. Seal Sprayed Solutions, the only ODS based foam manufacturing facility was converted to a non - ODS based facility. Another milestone was the refinement of Jamaican Standards for labelling of products and equipment containing or manufactured using ozone depleting substances and/or their substitutes and Transportation, Handling and Storage of Refrigerants in collaboration with Bureau of Standards Jamaica.

7. 2017: Through the efforts of the NOU, Jamaica completed a survey funded by the UNEP on Alternatives to ODS. The Revised Code of Practice for the Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Industry was finalised. The development of procedures to monitor HCFC use on Jamaican flagged ships was also an important achievement in 2017. These were developed with the support of the Caribbean Maritime University and the Shipping Association of Jamaica.
8. 2018-2019: Through the NOU and the UNDP, Jamaica successfully completed the *Implementing Enabling Activities for the ratification of the Kigali Amendment* Project. The Kigali Amendment is an amendment to the Montreal Protocol that provides resources globally to phase-down the use of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), the alternatives to the HCFCs, as refrigerants. The HFCs are not ODSs, but they contribute significantly to global warming.
9. 2021: The final version of the Jamaica National Cooling Strategy produced in collaboration with the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Project (KCEP)/Caribbean Cooling (C-COOL) Project jointly implemented with the UNEP/United for Efficiency (U4E). The most critical feature of this plan is the anticipated introduction of more energy efficient cooling modalities to the country. The commitment demonstrated by Jamaica as it enters the final stage toward approval, and subsequent implementation, is an excellent example for other countries seeking to meet their cooling needs in an economically sound and climate-friendly manner.” The story can be seen at the link: (<https://united4efficiency.org/jamaicas-national-cooling-strategy-prepared-for-cabinet-submission/>).
10. 2023: In March, the national ozone assistant from the Jamaica NOU received international training from the UNEP at the Training for New Ozone Officers and Ozone Assistants in the Caribbean in Panama City to build her capacity and by extension that of the NOU. The expected immediate result is that NOU staff will be furnished with information and skills which they can use in their daily work in the NOU, including useful sources of information and places where they can seek advice and support. The expected longer-term results are that (a) NOU teams will be able to carry out their work more effectively, and (b) national governments will be successful in meeting the commitments agreed upon by all countries under the Montreal Protocol.