

NEPA's Ozone Unit wins International award for Out-standing work

Jamaica was one of four countries selected for the **2003 Outstanding National Ozone Unit Award** by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) OzonAction Programme. Other winners of the Outstanding Ozone Unit Award are China, Fiji, and Senegal.

The award, which is to be presented during the Fifteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol to be convened in Nairobi, Kenya, 10-14 November 2003, is given in recognition of the achievements by National Ozone Units in their work to eliminate the use of Ozone Depleting substances.

According to Anne Fenner, Information Officer at the OzonAction Programme, "the NOU Awards not only show appreciation of the countries' progress in meeting compliance targets, but also encourage them to maintain a pro-active and enthusiastic attitude".

Jamaica was selected for the award by a panel that included representatives of the Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund, UNEP OzonAction Programme, UNEP Ozone Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the World Bank.

Jamaica's National Ozone Unit, which resides in the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) was in July awarded just over \$3.2 million dollars (US\$57,200.00) to continue its efforts to eliminate the use of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS).

Head of Jamaica's National Ozone Unit (NOU), Veronica Alleyne, notes that the success of the Unit is due to the level of co-operation and support it is given by both private and public sector workers.

The Ozone Unit was set up in March 1997 to co-ordinate the implementation of Jamaica's Country Programme for phasing out ODS.