

World Ozone Day: EU continues to phase out gases harming the ozone layer

Press release | Published 16 Sept 2024

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Today, 16 September, is **World Ozone Day** to mark the Montreal Protocol to phase out environmentally harmful ozone-depleting substances (ODS). The consumption of ODS covered by the Montreal Protocol has declined in the EU and worldwide by about 99% from 1986 to 2023. The remaining 1% reflects some industrial processes, firefighting, laboratory and analytical uses where alternatives are not yet widely available.

The European Environment Agency (EEA) [has published new data](#), collected annually from companies, on the **production, import, export, destruction, and use of ozone-depleting substances** as raw materials in the EU. The data show how the EU has met its obligations under the Montreal Protocol and tracks progress on the more ambitious EU Ozone Regulation.

In 2023, the **consumption** (production and imports minus destruction and exports) of ozone-depleting substances in the EU stood at +1,306 metric tonnes, up from -2,954 tonnes in 2022. The **production** of controlled ozone-depleting substances in the EU was 20% lower than in 2022 while **imports** of these substance declined by 2%. These volumes are less than 1% of the total ODS that were consumed in Europe when the Montreal Protocol was agreed in 1986.

The EU is also committed to fully [phasing out the consumption of hydrofluorocarbons \(HFCs\) by 2050](#). While progress to date is promising there remains a significant need for technological development to replace F-gases with less harmful alternatives, for

example, in refrigerant use. **F-gases** were introduced as replacements for the ozone-depleting substances. They don't harm the ozone layer but as greenhouse gases they have a very high warming impact on the climate.

Find out more

- EEA indicator: [Consumption of ozone-depleting substances](#)
- Get the latest overview of [ozone-depleting substances](#) in Europe
- United Nations: [World Ozone Day – International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)
- European Commission: [EU Ozone Regulation](#)

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