

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)

HFCs were designed to replace stratospheric ozone depleting substances (ODS) used in air conditioning, refrigeration, solvents and aerosols. However, HFCs are potent greenhouse gases which could substantially contribute to radiative forcing in the atmosphere due to a significant growth in their use as a result of an increased demand for refrigeration and air-conditioning. If left unchecked, consumption of HFC is expected to double by 2020.

HFCs are currently included as part of the greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced under the Kyoto Protocol, hence there could be greater scope for collaboration between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Montreal Protocol, where proposals to phase out the production and consumption of HFCs are undergoing discussions.

