

# HCFC PHASE OUT: UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

*Shaha Abdul Gafoor - Hiriya School*

Remember that humongous hole in the ozone layer that everyone kept making a huge deal about? I am assuming that most of you wouldn't. It's not like everyone has all the time in the world to care about the existence of the ozone layer but if we did not, then I bet the probability of us humans existing in the near future would be very less. Let's just assume not caring about the environment would be the mark of our own phase out.

The ozone layer is a layer in the Earth's atmosphere which contains relatively high concentrations of ozone. This layer protects the Earth from sun's high frequency ultraviolet light, which is potentially damaging to the life forms on Earth. Nevertheless, due to the usage of harmful substances like CFC, it leads to the breakdown of the ozone molecules. The breakdown of the ozone results in the ozone molecules being unable to absorb the ultra violet radiation.

HCFC is a fluorocarbon that is replacing CFC as a refrigerant and propelled in the aerosol cans. It is considered to be less destructive to the ozone layer and also very cost effective compared to CFC. However, they still contribute to the depletion of the ozone layer so under the terms and condition of the Montreal Protocol, the consumption of HCFC will be phased out from most of the country. This is in order to protect the ozone layer.

With all of the destructive substances out of the way it becomes a unique opportunity for us to safeguard the ozone. When we safeguard the ozone we are safeguarding our families, our friends and surprisingly, ourselves as well. I reckon we should aware everyone about how big a deal this is because if we don't take the necessary precautions we would be doomed in the future. I know probably writing lots of articles about it wouldn't help much, unless we are willing to move our feet and try to make a change to save the world and ourselves. Nothing would change unless we make the change. As Gandhi said, you must be the change you want to see in the world!

