

Responsible use principles for hydrofluorocarbons

A partnership of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Alliance for Responsible Atmospheric Policy has elaborated the responsible use principles for hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and is soliciting governments, industry associations and environmental NGOs to support and promote these principles worldwide. It intends to minimize HFC emissions where enterprises have already selected HFCs or plan to employ HFC-using technologies. Without responsible use, by 2050 HFCs could account for up to 2 per cent of total greenhouse gas contributions. This partnership has resolved to apply worldwide the following Responsible Use Principles:

- Select HFCs for applications where they provide health and safety, environmental, technical, economic or unique societal benefits;
- Minimize HFC emissions to the lowest practical level during manufacture of the chemical, and during use and disposal of equipment using cost-effective technology;
- Design and operate HFC-producing plants with the goal of achieving zero HFC emissions;
- Engineer, operate and maintain HFC-using systems to minimize emissions and maximize energy efficiency;
- Recover, recycle, reclaim and/or destroy used HFCs where technically and economically feasible;
- Promote comprehensive technician training in HFC handling to assure compliance with regulations and stewardship practices;
- Meet standards governing HFC equipment installation and maintenance, HFC transport and storage, and exceed such standards when appropriate;
- Accurately report HFC production and promote models, that estimate emissions; and
- Consider alternatives that are technically, environmentally and economically feasible.