

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER

16 September 2010

Designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 1994, the International Day for the [Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#), on September 16, comes as a commemoration of the signature of the [Montreal Protocol](#) on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1987. Such protocol intended to protect the ozone layer by appointing and phasing out the production of a number of substances believed to be responsible for ozone depletion. It successfully achieved drastic reductions of concentrations of those substances in the air.

Ozone is an irritating, corrosive gas which absorbs the sun's high frequency ultraviolet light, light which could potentially damage life on earth. In the 1970s, scientists discovered that an 'ozone hole' was developing above the Antarctic, because of potentially harming chemicals being released in the air. Such chemicals were phased out via the Montreal protocol as illustrated above.

The preservation of the ozone layer also depends largely on international agreements on climate change. Efforts in reducing the use of chemicals that cause climate change, such as Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), often used in refrigeration and air conditioning systems, play an important role along efforts to reduce greenhouse gases such as CO₂ (<http://www.un.org.au/files/files/SC%2omessage%20-%20ozoneday2009.pdf>).

A small selection of Article 13 resources on the subject includes:

- [Article 13 Climate Change Resource centre](#)
- [Aviva – reducing and offsetting carbon emissions](#)
- [3M – Development of a life cycle management approach](#)

For information on how Article 13 can assist you in auditing your company's practices, developing environmental action plans, and reducing your business related environmental impacts, contact Fiona Banyard on 020 8840 4450 or email fionab@article13.com