



# Montreal Protocol

## What is the Montreal Protocol?

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal Protocol) is an international agreement made in 1987, which has achieved universal ratification. It was designed to stop the production and import of ozone depleting substances and reduce their concentration in the atmosphere to help protect the earth's ozone layer.



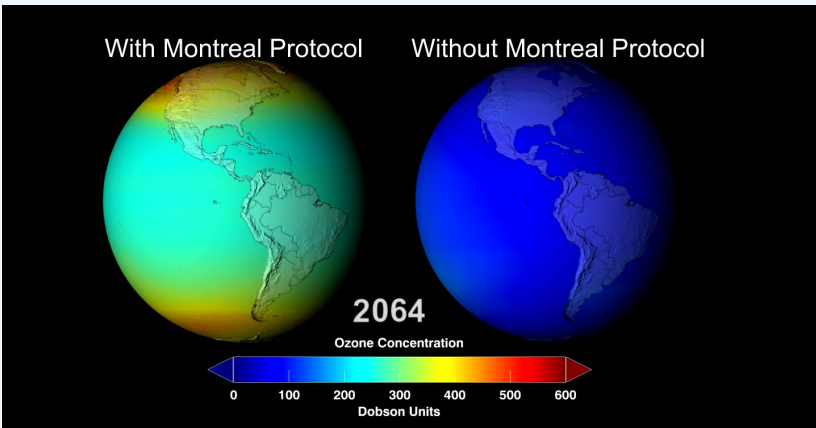
**170–200**  
extra cases of skin cancer  
per million people per year  
in Australia without the  
Montreal Protocol



**16 September**  
is International Day for  
the Preservation of the  
Ozone Layer

## How did the Montreal Protocol come about?

It sits under the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. The Vienna Convention was adopted in 1985, its objectives are to promote cooperation on the adverse effects of human activities on the ozone layer. It was drafted following international discussion of scientific discoveries in the 1970s and 1980s highlighting the adverse effect of human activity on ozone levels in the stratosphere and the discovery of the ‘ozone hole’.



Dobson Units measure the concentration of ozone in the atmosphere. Higher measurements of Dobson Units = more protection for the earth. Source: NASA Visualization Studio

## How does the Montreal Protocol work?

The Montreal Protocol sets out a mandatory timetable for the phase out of the main ozone depleting substances. Six amendments have been made to further strengthen the Protocol, by adding more chemicals to those covered by the Protocol and setting binding targets for countries to phase out or phase-down covered chemicals. The Multilateral Fund, created under the Montreal Protocol, provides financial assistance to developing countries to help them achieve their phase out obligations.

## TIMELINE

- 1985** ▶ Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer agreed
- 1987** ▶ Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer agreed
- 1990** ▶ Creation of Multilateral Fund
- 1990** ▶ London Amendment
- 1991** ▶ Phase out of CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) begins
- 1992** ▶ Copenhagen Amendment
- 1995** ▶ Vienna Amendment
- 1996** ▶ Phase out of HCFCs (hydrochlorofluorocarbons) begins
- 1997** ▶ Montreal Amendment
- 1999** ▶ Beijing Amendment
- 2016** ▶ Kigali Amendment
- 2019** ▶ Phase down of HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons) begins



**UV Index of 25**  
could have been reached  
in Australia without the  
Montreal Protocol. A UV Index  
of 9 is considered high



**40 million tonnes**  
the amount of greenhouse gas  
emissions Australia has saved  
since 1995 by phasing out  
CFCs and HCFCs



**Australia**  
has contributed over  
\$97 million to the  
Multilateral Fund since 1991