

Stratospheric Ozone Layer & Atmosphere Protection

MOPIA's Monthly E-Bulletin for our Subscription Members and Select Stakeholders



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Earth Day is April 22



MOPIA's own Executive Director, (Mark Miller), is this year's Earth Day Manitoba Coordinator for 2008.

Earth Day is April 22 and is the most recognized and celebrated environmental event held worldwide.

More than 6 million Canadians join 500 million people in over 180 countries in staging events and projects to address local environmental issues.

Environmental challenges abound as our daily actions pollute and degrade the environment that humans and wildlife depend on to survive. Earth Day provides the opportunity for positive actions and results. It was first launched as an environmental awareness event in the United States in 1970, Earth Day is generally celebrated as the birth of the environmental movement. Earth Day is a powerful catalyst for change. The first Earth Day, spearheaded by Wisconsin Governor Gaylord Nelson and Harvard University student Denis Hayes, involved 20 million participants in teach-ins that addressed decades of environmental pollution. The event inspired the US Congress to pass clean air and water acts, and establish the Environmental Protection Agency to research and monitor environmental issues and enforce environmental laws.

In 1990, two million Canadians joined 200 million people in 141 nations in celebrating the first International Earth Day. In many countries, the global event brought pressure on heads of state to take part in the UN Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro to address issues such as climate change and the world wide loss of species.

In Canada, Earth Day has grown into Earth Week and even Earth Month to accommodate the profusion of events and projects. Special events are planned throughout Manitoba. If you have one, let Mark know (mopia@mts.net) so he can help promote or profile it. Also see some of these activities: www.earthday.ca

Climate Change and Earth Conference April 22-23, 2008

Plan to Attend - April 22-23

Plan to attend the 2008 Climate Change Conference and Earth Forum being held in Winnipeg April 22-23. There is a discount for MOPIA members.

The event will focus on alternative energy, innovation, and include many guest speakers including Ralph Avallone (Green Energy Council), Angus Fergusson (Environment Canada), Hon. Jim Rondeau (Minister of Science, Energy, Technology and Mines), The Right Honourable Ed Schreyer and many other representatives from government, non-government organizations and industry.

Of special interest to MOPIA members, Refrigerant Management Canada (RMC) will be speaking regarding Canada's national refrigerant stewardship initiative. You won't want to miss it.

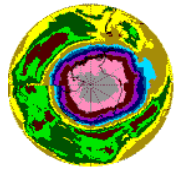
Registration is limited and can be completed on-line at www.climateforum.ca or by calling MOPIA directly at 338.0804 or 1.888.667.4203.

The Right Hon. Ed Schreyer and Mr. Ralph Avallone (below) will be speaking at the conference.





Keeping our members informed!!



MOPIA Employee Becomes an Environment Officer



Scott Nicol MNRM

Scott Nicol, MOPIA's White Goods Coordinator, has taken on a new position as an Environment Officer with Manitoba Conservation. His posting began April 7 and he will be working out of the Northwest region (i.e. The Pas, Flin Flon and area).

Scott was instrumental in completing several white goods stewardship management projects. He updated the MOPIA certification training manual and was a participant/speaker at the MOPIA led regulation and program awareness sessions.

MOPIA expresses best wishes to Scott and extends a huge thank you to him for contributing significantly to the success of the organization's special projects over the nearly three years he was employed.



Certification Training

MOPIA is planning to hold a certification training class in late April or early May to meet the on-going needs of the ODS and other halocarbon sector industries. If you know someone that requires their "MOPIA" card, get them to contact us directly to register for the class or email sarah@mts.net. The registration form can also be accessed through our website at www.mopia.ca

Leaking Refrigeration Equipment Leads to Fine

A bread crumb manufacturing plant in Millstadt, Illinois (Kerry Inc.), has come to an agreement to settle on alleged violations of EPA regulations to protect stratospheric ozone layer.

The agreement, which includes a \$169,822 penalty and an \$811,097 environmental project, resolves EPA allegations that Kerry failed to repair refrigeration equipment that leaked excessive amounts of ODS's. In addition, EPA said the company violated testing, notification, retrofitting, replacement and retirement planning requirements for the equipment.

For its environmental project Kerry will replace ODS refrigerant used in refrigeration equipment at its Jackson and Sturtevant, Wis., plants with a non ODS refrigerant.

When CFC refrigerants deplete the stratospheric ozone layer, dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun strike the earth. Production of some of these chemicals was halted under the Montreal Protocol.

Information on EPA Region 5's air enforcement program is at the following website:

www.epa.gov/region5/air/enforce/index.html

World to Focus on Illegal Trade

Ozone depleting substances (ODS) such as those used in refrigeration and air conditioning systems not only destroy the earth's protective shield (the stratospheric ozone layer), but if released into the atmosphere also contribute to climate change as they are also powerful greenhouse gases. Illegal trade in ODS's has become a global phenomenon. During a high level meeting at World Customs Organization headquarters recently on enforcement issues, delegates representing the United Nations Environment Programme, Customs administrations and international organizations and stakeholders called for an urgent and concerted global response to tackle ever increasing environment crime. Participants agreed on an Action Plan to fight against environment crime. See The World Customs Organization, 27 March 2008 news at:

www.wcoomd.org/press/?v=1&lid=1&cid=5&id=152



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