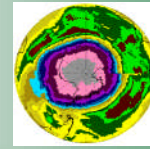
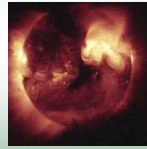




MOPIA's Monthly E-Bulletin on Ozone Layer Protection



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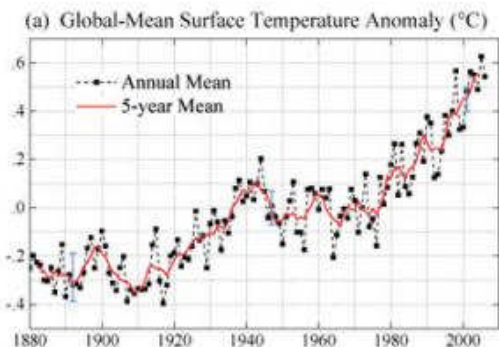
Climate Change Report Issued

The much anticipated climate change report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (Working Group I) adopted the Summary for Policymakers of the first volume of "Climate Change 2007", also known as the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) earlier this month (February 2, 2007).

"Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis", assesses the current scientific knowledge of the natural and human drivers of climate change, observed changes in climate, the ability of science to attribute changes to different causes, and projections for future climate change.

The Report was produced by some 600 authors from 40 countries. Over 620 expert reviewers and a large number of government reviewers also participated. Representatives from 113 governments reviewed and revised the Summary line-by-line during the course of this week before adopting it and accepting the underlying report.

The Summary can be downloaded from www.ipcc.ch and <http://ipcc-wg1.ucar.edu>



The above graph shows global annual surface temperatures relative to 1951 to 1980 mean, based on surface air measurements at meteorological stations and ship and satellite measurements for sea surface temperature. Over the past 30 years the Earth has warmed by about 0.6°C or 1.08°F. (Credit: NASA)

MOPIA's 13th AGM

MOPIA held our 13th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Winnipeg, on Monday, February 12th, 2007. The AGM was held at Red River College.

The AGM is the Associations' annual event where financial information (including audit) was reported, programs are highlighted and persons become confirmed by our voting membership to participate on our volunteer based, Board of Directors.

MOPIA would like to welcome three new members to our Board of Directors including John Kubilanski, Dave Desrosiers and Jim Stewart. Retiring directors include Russ Martin and Botho Kramer. Both Russ and Botho were involved as members of the original ozone stakeholder working group which saw the evolution of the provinces ozone program back in 1993, which eventually emerged as MOPIA. A huge thank you to both of them for their countless hours contributing their expertise and input towards the betterment of their industry and environmental protection.

MOPIA's Board for 2006/07 consists of:

Bill Taylor
Michael Blackey
Don Thomson
William Grywinski
Jim Stewart
John Kubilanski
George Kurowski
Kurtis Calder
Inez Miller
Adrien Dufault
Dave Desrosiers
Laverne Dalglish
Mel Rittberg

MOPIA's Board of Directors meets on February 19 to elect Officers of the Executive Committee (Excom) including the Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Member-at-large.



Keeping our members informed!!

MOPIA's Next Certification Training Class is March 22



MOPIA will be hosting our next one-day environmental and regulation awareness training session on Thursday, March 22 in Winnipeg at Red River College.

You must pre-register to attend and you may do so by contacting MOPIA directly for a registration form (on-line) via email at sarah@mopia.ca or by phone. The cost of the class is \$107.10.

2006 Was the Earth's Fifth Warmest Year

Climatologists at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) in New York City have found that 2006 was the fifth warmest year in the past century.



Most places on the globe have warmed in recent decades, with the greatest warming at high latitudes in the Arctic Ocean, Alaska, Siberia and the Antarctic Peninsula. Most ocean areas have warmed. Climatologists say that the warming trend is not due to local effects of heat pollution (in urban areas), a point demonstrated by warming in remote areas far from major cities.

www.nasa.gov/centers/goddard/news/topstory/2006/2006_warm.html

Proposed Auto Air Conditioning Alternatives in the USA...

MOPIA is always scanning the web and relying on our resources to keep aware of emerging technologies and new regulatory approaches. In the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to list two substances, HFC-152a and CO₂ as acceptable alternatives with use conditions for motor vehicle air conditioning systems. You can view the details at: www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/refrigerants/SNAP_MVAC_Factsheet.html.

- This proposal would allow the use of two new alternatives to ozone depleting substances in the motor vehicle air conditioning sector and outline the conditions necessary for their safe use. The proposed substitutes are non ozone-depleting gases and consequently do not contribute to stratospheric ozone depletion.
- These new alternatives, when used with proper risk mitigation technologies, would reduce the impact of mobile air conditioners on the environment.

Background

- Under the Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program (Section 612 of the Clean Air Act), EPA reviews alternatives to Class I and Class II ozone depleting substances (ODS) and approves use of alternatives which reduce the overall risk to public health and the environment.
- The European Union has proposed and is expected to ban the use of HFC-134a and other fluorinated gases in a variety of applications. By the end of the decade, car manufacturers in the European market may have to move to the new alternatives proposed in this action. In response, U.S. car manufacturers are developing systems using these new alternative refrigerants.
- If auto manufacturers chose to adopt these technologies, they would be required to install safety devices to mitigate risks of fire or over-exposure to the refrigerant in the event of an accidental release during servicing or vehicle operation.
- Currently, CO₂ is an acceptable alternative under the SNAP program. This action will amend the previous SNAP acceptability of CO₂ to require manufacturers to install the necessary safety devices.

Note that the USA EPA info above applies to the United States. Local regulatory and insurance authorities, manufacturers and trade organizations should be consulted before considering or introducing any new A/C products.



Reach us at:

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