

100% REDUCTION - IS IT FEASIBLE?

In calling for an immediate 100% phaseout in production of CFCs, Greenpeace takes the view that nearly all uses of CFCs are either non-essential, or can be substituted using available technology. The only exceptions appear to be small refrigerators, for which substitutes are being developed, and certain life-saving applications. Greenpeace believes the CFC need for these products should be met by using existing recycling technology.

In the refrigeration sector a large volume of CFCs are stored in existing commercial freezer and cold storage systems. Much of the demand for CFCs in this sector is artificially created by wastage and could be met by recovery and recycling. As much as 70% of the CFC used in refrigeration is lost through leaks and other wastage.

As for foam blowing, packaging for hamburgers and fast foods, other presently available products can be substituted.

Insulant foam - used in building - can be eliminated in most applications by use of alternatives without serious technical or cost consequences.

CFCs used in solvents can often be replaced by aqueous cleaning which preceded the use of CFC 113. Some solvent use can be replaced with organic terpenes and "clean mount" techniques.

The use of halons can be avoided by installing other types of systems, eg. CO₂ or water sprinklers, combined with other measures.

Recovery and recycling of existing halons could service existing fire fighting equipment where halons are used in life-saving applications for which no other substitutes can be used.