

spaces, many of which help increase greenhouse gas sinks and improve the resilience of ecosystems to climatic variations and air pollution damage. For example, Tree Plan Canada is a community tree-planting program managed by the National Community Tree Foundation. It provides Canadians with an opportunity to learn about the importance of trees to our planet's life support system. To date, 42 million trees have been planted to rehabilitate urban forest ecosystems and to provide for soil conservation.

## Combating Stratospheric Ozone Depletion

Canada's response to the prevention of stratospheric ozone depletion includes strong regulatory controls on use, a ban on release, certification of technicians, research, monitoring, and public information and awareness components. Canada operates the World Ozone Data Centre in Toronto.

Canada has ratified the 1990 amendments and the 1992 Copenhagen amendments to the Montreal Protocol. Canada is implementing increasingly stringent controls beyond those agreed to in 1992 through coordinated federal and provincial regulations. Controls are in place on chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halons, and the use of CFCs in aerosols, small refill cans, and plastic food packaging is banned. Supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Ottawa, the Swiss Development Cooperative, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Friends of the Earth Canada is identifying potential economic and trade effects of a global phase-out of methyl bromide, a widely used pesticide and ozone-depleting substance.

Canadian researchers are focusing on ultraviolet-b (UV-B) radiation effects on humans, animals, and biota; the causes and extent of ozone layer depletion conducted, in part, through an Arctic research station at Eureka; and the monitoring of total column ozone concentration at ten stations across Canada. The UV Index, developed in 1993 to advise the population of forecast levels of sunburning UV radiation, has been adopted by several other countries.

Canada has a National Action Plan on Recovery and Recycling of CFCs. Federal and provincial governments, in cooperation with the Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute and municipalities, have developed a training program on the proper handling, recovery, and recycling of CFC refrigerants. More than 60,000 technicians have been trained. Most CFC uses, other than refrigeration and air conditioning, have been eliminated, and CFC-free refrigerators are being introduced.

## Limiting Transboundary Air Pollution

Transboundary air pollution continues to be a very important issue for Canada. With the United States, we are demonstrating that partnership efforts can successfully address the problems of acid rain through emission reduction actions, public awareness raising, and sound science. Canada and the United States are beginning to apply this proven approach to addressing their smog problem. Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are an emerging

*The Atmospheric Environment Service of Environment Canada has developed the Brewer Ozone Spectrophotometer. The Brewer, now manufactured by Sci-tech Instruments of Saskatoon, is used by more than thirty countries around the world.*

*Canada intends to phase out methyl bromide by 2001, except for certain agricultural uses exempted under the Montreal Protocol. We have already frozen consumption at 1991 levels and plan on a 25 percent reduction for 1998. With this initiative, Canada has one of the most stringent methyl bromide control programs in the world. Our actions go beyond our commitments under the Montreal Protocol, which illustrates our determination to take decisive measures to reverse the destruction of the ozone layer.*