

## **The ozone hole and the Montreal Protocol**

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Following the history of the development and production of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and their fluorocarbon alternatives is an instructive way to observe the interaction between science, policy and the private sector. The first publications linking CFCs with the destruction of the ozone layer in the 1970s had an immediate effect on certain markets for these products, even before regulations were put into place. Yet production and sales recovered and remained strong well into the 1980s. The involvement of the CFC producers with both the scientific and political sectors was key to their response to the evidence of the Antarctic ozone hole and the parallel negotiations of the Montreal Protocol: The extent to which the CFC-ozone story provides lessons for other global environmental problems will be examined. The impact of regulations on the halocarbon industry will be shown using the latest production data reported to the Alternative Fluorocarbons Environmental Acceptability Study (AFEAS), see [www.afeas.org](http://www.afeas.org).