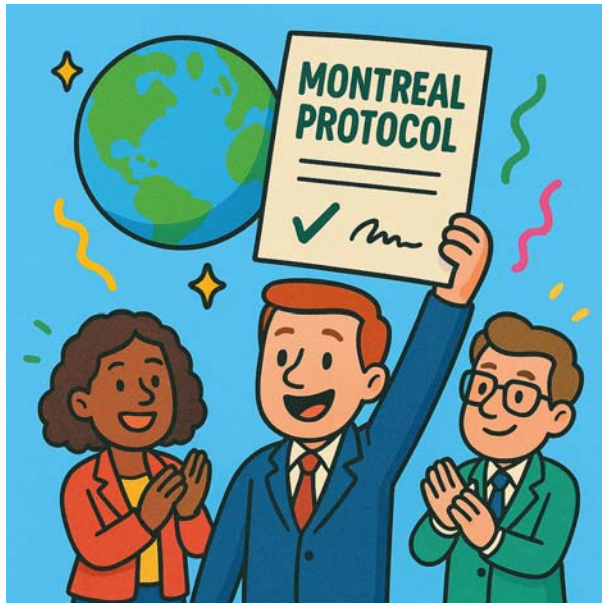


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## Can Repairing the Ozone Layer Help Fight Climate Change Too?

The ozone layer is a thin layer of gas high above Earth that acts like a shield. It blocks most of the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays, which can cause skin cancer and hurt plants and animals. Years ago, scientists discovered that chemicals called CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) were destroying this layer. In response, countries around the world signed the Montreal Protocol to stop using CFCs.

Thanks to that agreement, the ozone layer is now healing. But here's something even more amazing: repairing the ozone layer may also help fight climate change.

Climate change happens when certain gases, like carbon dioxide and methane, trap heat in Earth's atmosphere. These are called greenhouse gases. Some of the chemicals that damaged the ozone layer, including CFCs and their replacements, are also powerful greenhouse gases. This means they don't just hurt the ozone—they also heat up the planet.

By banning CFCs and other ozone-damaging chemicals, the Montreal Protocol helped reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the air. Some scientists say this agreement has already slowed down global warming.

In fact, the Montreal Protocol is sometimes called one of the most successful climate actions ever—even though it was created to fix a different problem! It shows how solving one issue can sometimes help solve another.

There's still more work to do. Some of the newer chemicals, like HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons), do not harm the ozone layer but do cause climate change. Now, countries are working on new plans to reduce these gases too.

So, can fixing the ozone layer help fight climate change? Yes! When countries take action together, they can protect the planet in more than one way. By learning from the success of the Montreal Protocol, people everywhere can find more smart ways to protect both the ozone layer and the climate.