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What Can We Learn from the Ozone Crisis?



In the 1980s, scientists discovered that something was wrong high above Earth. A part of the atmosphere called the ozone layer was getting thinner, especially over Antarctica. The ozone layer protects life on Earth by blocking harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun. Without it, people and animals could face serious problems like skin cancer and eye damage, and plants could be harmed too.

Scientists found the cause: CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons), chemicals used in spray cans, refrigerators, and air conditioners. When CFCs reached the upper atmosphere, they broke apart ozone molecules. The world was shocked by this discovery.

But something amazing happened. Countries around the world quickly came together to solve the problem. In 1987, they signed an agreement called the Montreal Protocol, promising to stop using CFCs. This was one of the first times nations worked together to protect the planet. Over time, companies made safer products, and the ozone layer began to heal.

This global teamwork worked—so what can we learn from it?

First, we learn that science matters. Scientists studied the problem, explained it clearly, and showed people what needed to change. Listening to science helped save the ozone layer.

Second, we learn the power of working together. One country acting alone could not have fixed the problem. It took a group effort—nations cooperating, even if they didn't always agree on other things.

Third, we learn that solutions are possible. Even big problems can be solved when people care enough to act. The ozone crisis shows that humans can fix what they've broken.

We now face other big problems, like climate change, plastic pollution, and deforestation. These challenges may seem huge, but the ozone story gives us hope. If we use science, work as a team, and believe that change is possible, we can make a difference.

The ozone crisis isn't just history—it's a guide. It reminds us that when people act together with care and courage, they can protect the planet for generations to come.