



EMB hosts webinar on refrigeration and air conditioning applications to reduce ODS and GHG emissions

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) recently conducted a webinar titled “Climate-Friendly Refrigeration and Air Conditioning,” highlighting key policies, updates, and achievements in reducing ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) sector in the Philippines.

The event, held on August 30, 2024, was attended by representatives from various sectors, including the youth, local government units (LGUs), the academe, private industry stakeholders, and EMB regional employees. The webinar, broadcast via Zoom and Facebook Live, served as a comprehensive platform to engage and educate participants on the role of the RAC sector in climate change mitigation.

The online seminar aimed to raise awareness about the RAC sector's crucial role in both climate change adaptation and mitigation, share updates on policies and best practices for reducing ODS and GHG emissions, and encourage the adoption of sustainable cooling technologies.

ODS, particularly hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), and non-ozone depleting alternatives such as hydrofluorocarbon (HFCs) are the most used substances in refrigeration and air-conditioning applications. Both are widely used in various RAC applications, including domestic and commercial refrigeration, cold storage, food processing, and other air conditioning systems.

EMB Assistant Director Esperanza A. Sajul emphasized the bureau’s commitment to fostering a more ozone- and climate-friendly Philippines. She highlighted the importance of collaboration across the RAC sector, from importers to service providers, and underscored the Bureau's efforts in public awareness and training initiatives.

“We are actively promoting the transition to climate-friendly RAC technologies and ensuring the proper handling of refrigerants during servicing. Additionally, we mandate the collection and safe treatment of spent refrigerants from decommissioned equipment,” Engr. Sajul explained.

During the webinar, Engr. Eloisa Myra Balicha, Engineer II of the Philippine Ozone Desk, presented the latest policies, updates, and accomplishments related to GHG emissions reduction in the RAC sector. Her presentation included key provisions from DENR administrative orders regulating the use of ODS and HFCs, as well as the Philippines' achievements in meeting its climate and ozone protection targets.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kriz S. Bernardino from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) introduced to the participants the new technologies and best practices in RAC servicing, including the safe handling of flammable refrigerants and proper storage techniques for refrigerant cylinders.

Moreover, representatives from the private sector, Engr. Garry J. Quiambao, PME, and Mr. Elizalde G. Nardo of Delsa Incorporated, shared their insights on industry best practices. They discussed refrigerant safety, corrective maintenance, and the standard process for recovering and storing refrigerants.

In closing, Engr. Sajul called for stronger collaboration between regulatory agencies and the RAC servicing sector, noting that “efforts at the micro-level, such as reducing refrigerant leakage rates, adopting good service practices, improving energy efficiency, and minimizing environmental impact, are essential to achieving the country’s climate goals.”

The Philippines, through the EMB-DENR as a signatory to the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment, continues to demonstrate its commitment to protecting the ozone layer and advancing climate action, working towards a sustainable, climate-resilient future. ###