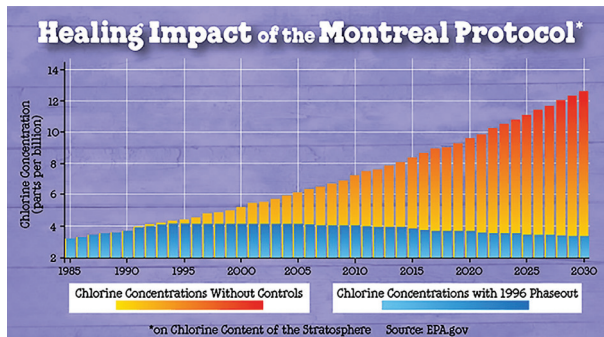


**In the early 1980s**, scientists discovered that emissions from refrigerants (as used in refrigerators, freezers and dehumidifiers as well as spray aerosols) were causing a hole in the ozone. By 1987, the United Nations established the landmark Montreal Protocol with the aim of phasing out all refrigerants known to be Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs).

With the United States leading the way, 197 parties eventually adopted the Montreal Protocol, and now the UN is predicting the ozone will fully recover to 1980 levels between 2050 and 2070.



**Problem solved?** Well, not entirely.

The replacements for ODSs are mainly hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are incredibly intense greenhouse gases. While these refrigerants no longer deplete the ozone, they are so virulent they account for 5% of all greenhouse gases emitted in New York State.

## How Do We Recycle Appliances in Orange County?

The best option — but only for working refrigerators or freezers — is to have your utility remove your unit from your home in exchange for a rebate of \$25 to \$50 depending on the company. Call your utility for current details.

O&R 866-552-3755

NYSEG 800-572-1121

Central Hudson 845-452-2700

For air conditioners, dehumidifiers, water coolers, and non-working refrigerators and freezers, take them to the closest Orange County Transfer Station:

21 Training Center Ln. New Hampton, NY 10958

9 Orr Ave. Newburgh, NY 12550

86 Tow Path Rd. Port Jervis, NY 12771

Phone: 845-291-2664 or 845-291-2640

The County's charge is \$15 for each appliance. This fee allows the County to manage incoming appliances and to hire a service that safely evacuates all refrigerants.



Questions? [esiljkovic@orangecountygov.com](mailto:esiljkovic@orangecountygov.com)

Hmmm. How will you remember these instructions down the road when your appliance actually needs to be recycled? **Duct tape is the answer!** Find an unobtrusive spot on your appliance, tape over it, and write something memorable with a Sharpie:



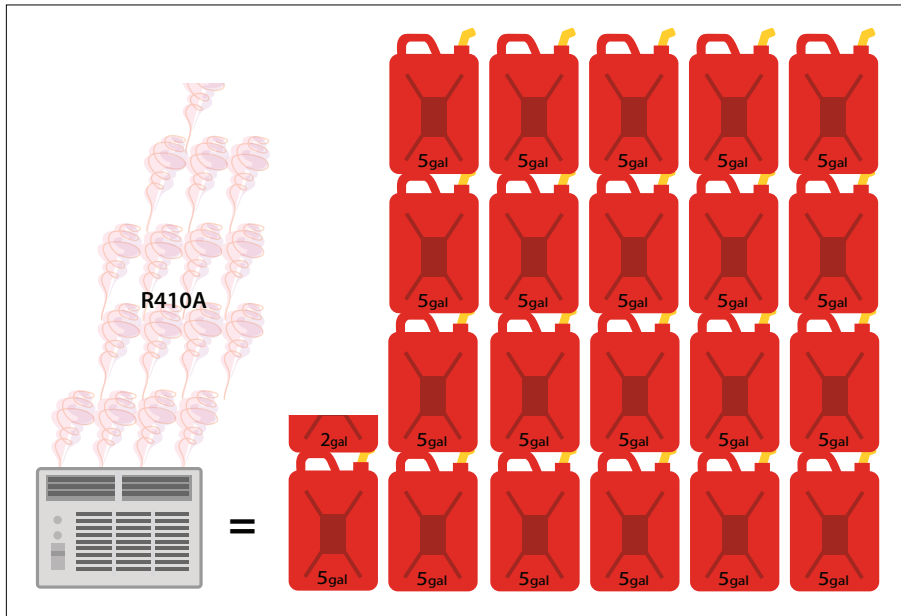
# Recycling Appliances with Refrigerants



## One of the Most Important Things to Recycle

Many of us have memories of the 1980s panic about a hole in the ozone layer.  
*What ever happened to that?*

# So just how intense are refrigerants as greenhouse gases?



A typical air conditioner holds 15.5 ounces of R410A, a common refrigerant. If leaked to the atmosphere, that much R410A has the same carbon footprint as 107 gallons of gasoline, enough to drive a Prius 5,350 miles (at 50 mpg), which would go from Orange County, NY to Las Vegas, NV—and back! An average car (at 24+ mpg), could make it to Las Vegas with gas to spare.



A typical refrigerator holds 5 ounces of R134A, another common refrigerant. That little bit of R134A, if it escapes to the atmosphere, would have the same carbon footprint as 23 gallons of gasoline, enough to drive a Prius from Orange County, NY to Florida. That's Tampa, Florida, not the Village of Florida!

**“While HFCs are safe for ozone, they are a powerful greenhouse gas, a thousand times worse than CO<sub>2</sub>.”**

NationalGeographic.org

These examples illustrate how important it is for all appliances with refrigerants to be properly recycled. Please keep in mind, when refrigerants are in well-sealed machinery, they are fine—it's only when refrigerant coils get ruptured that they leak. So, when an appliance with refrigerants stops working, the best practice is to take it for proper recycling as soon as convenient. (*Orange County residents, see back for details.*)



For more information please visit:  
[www.orangecountygov.com/efs](http://www.orangecountygov.com/efs)