

XPSA Supports Montreal Protocol Amendment Hastening HFC Phase-Out

Extruded Polystyrene Foam Association (XPSA) Members, Already Working Toward HFC Alternatives,
Applaud Agreement to Prioritize Global Phase-Out

Washington, D.C. (October 21, 2016) – The Extruded Polystyrene Foam Association (XPSA), whose members include the major extruded polystyrene foam (XPS) insulation manufacturers in North America, today announced its support for the Montreal Protocol amendment hastening the global phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) to protect the stratospheric ozone and mitigate the effects of climate change.

XPSA has previously expressed support for both the Montreal Protocol and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Program, under which XPS manufacturers are transitioning out of using HFC-134a. XPS manufacturers have always met or exceeded the timelines set forth and will continue to do so based on sound science and environmental stewardship. XPSA's members are committed to eliminating HFCs from their products by the EPA SNAP deadline of January 1, 2021.

"The phase-out of HFCs will be a significant milestone within the XPS industry's stewardship and sustainability objectives and a natural progression of our ongoing search for technology improvements to better serve our customers and protect our environment," said John Ferraro, Executive Director of XPSA.

The intricacy of XPS chemistries makes the process of transitioning to an alternative blowing agent complex. Replacing HFC-134a requires a comprehensive reconsideration of the entire chemical makeup of XPS insulation products. The EPA understands that XPS manufacturers need sufficient time to identify viable alternatives to HFC-134a; assess and address risks of alternative components; analyze capabilities and make vital modifications to equipment, facilities, manufacturing processes, and worker safety and training programs; work with suppliers on equipment and component needs; build and engage in pilot- and plant-scale trials; obtain permits, approvals, and financing; and address commercialization issues such as ensuring adequate production capacity to meet global market demand.

XPS's superior long-term thermal properties heighten a structure's energy efficiency, which both the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and EPA acknowledge to be one of the most effective greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction strategies. In fact, ASHREA and XPS industry estimates indicate that homes using XPS insulation sheathing save enough energy in the first year to heat over 500,000 homes in the US. XPS reduces GHG emissions by lowering the energy consumption of a structure, which diminishes the amount of energy spent in the distribution of energy, the delivery of which requires 3.34 units of energy to send 1 unit to a building for user consumption. Environmental Product Declaration (EDP) data shows that the reduced energy consumption due to XPS foam pays back the embedded CO₂ multiple times over the life of a building.

About XPSA

The Extruded Polystyrene Foam Association (XPSA) is a trade association representing manufacturers of Extruded Polystyrene Foam (XPS) insulation products and the industry's raw material suppliers. XPSA members collectively manufacture more than 95% of all XPS destined for use in the North American market. XPSA promotes the benefits that accrue to society from appropriate use of XPS foam insulation applications.