JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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Patrick McInerney Award for ozone and climate leadership announced at United Nations meeting on the Montreal Protocol

An award recognising outstanding leadership and achievement in advancing ozone and climate protection was recently announced at the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP38), in memory of the late Patrick McInerney PSM, ten years after his leadership helped secure the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. The *Patrick McInerney Award* will recognise individuals whose leadership, collaboration and practical problem-solving capabilities reflect the qualities that defined Pat's work.

The ***Patrick McInerney Award*** will provide an opportunity for those in the industry to nominate and recognise individuals who demonstrate a collaborative approach in bringing governments, industry, non-government organisations and scientists together to find practical solutions to complex environmental challenges.

Discussions at MOP38 focused on advancing the global phase down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), improving cooling efficiency and securing funding to help developing countries meet their commitments. This emphasis on international cooperation and practical solutions provided a fitting setting to announce an award in Pat's memory

The award has been established with the endorsement of Pat's family, with Refrigerants Australia and Refrigerant Reclaim Australia contributing to its development and ongoing support.

During his time as Director in the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Pat helped shape Australia's approach to ozone and climate protection and advance international efforts to protect the ozone layer and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For Refrigerant Reclaim Australia (RRA) and Refrigerants Australia (RA) and past confederates, the award is a lasting tribute to Pat, keeping his memory alive and ensuring his contribution to ozone and climate protection continues to be recognised.

RRA General Manager Kylie Farrelley said that Pat's honesty, integrity and openness earned colleagues' trust. He sought practical solutions, even in difficult circumstances.

"Pat is deeply missed, and this award is a fitting way to honour his contribution and keep his memory alive by recognising others who share his commitment to collaboration and practical problem solving," she said.

RA Executive Director Dr Greg Picker said Pat's work helped shape national policies and international agreements, making a lasting contribution to environmental protection in Australia and globally.

"Pat's depth of knowledge and dedication to his work set a standard that others could aspire to. This award will recognise excellence in advancing the Montreal Protocol's objectives, giving outstanding achievements the attention they deserve and encouraging others to bring the same ambition and commitment to the work ahead."

Pat's passing was deeply felt by those who worked with him in Australia and internationally. Remembered for his calm, thoughtful approach, he was widely respected for bringing governments, industry, non-government organisations and scientists together to find workable solutions to complex environmental challenges.

The inaugural recipient of the ***Patrick McInerney Award*** will be announced during the Montreal Protocol's 40th anniversary celebrations in 2027

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