

# Meeting the challenge

## of Proper Management of Hazardous Waste



### *Green House Gases (GHG) and Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)*

#### Who is EURITS?

- The European Union for the Responsible Incineration & Treatment of Special waste
- An association of hazardous waste management companies across the EU
- Eurits members have a total capacity of high temperature incineration of around 3Mt/y; this represents 90-95% of the total capacity in Europe

#### Main activities

- Make sure hazardous waste is handled, managed and treated very specifically and in a correct manner:
  - To avoid any dispersion of hazards or contaminants into the environment
  - To ensure that the environment and public health are protected
  - To ensure that recovered materials are reliable

#### Key role

- The EU's leading voice on hazardous waste
- Over 25 years of experience in hazardous waste treatment
- Consistent promotion of best sustainable environmental practice
- Representing the special waste treatment industry in the EU Parliament and Commission, in order to create adequate support and policy frameworks in Europe

# Eurits members' actions have a positive influence on the climate

## What is the impact of GHGs and ODS?

A number of natural and man-made mechanisms can affect the global energy balance and force changes in Earth's climate. Greenhouse gases are one such mechanism. Greenhouse gases absorb and emit some of the outgoing energy radiated from Earth's surface, causing that heat to be retained in the lower atmosphere. The gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, nitrous oxides, and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

Ozone depletion is a different environmental problem but is also caused by changes to the atmosphere caused by humans. Both the greenhouse effect and ozone depletion are due to chemicals released into the air by people's activities. Another similarity is that CFCs are ozone destroyers and greenhouse gases. It is important to notice that fluorinated gases are 29,000 times more impactful than CO<sub>2</sub>!

## How urgent is the problem?

The impacts on the climate of these fluorinated and brominated gases are well known and the international community decided to adopt some new regulations and goals through the Montreal (1995) and Kyoto (1997) protocols. The most recent international decision was the Kigali Amendment (2016), which aims to reduce the current consumption of fluorinated gases to 15% or 20% by 2048.

Complying with the Kigali Amendment would reduce the global temperature increase by 0.5° by 2100. If nothing is done, in 2050, fluorinated gases will represent 20% of total GHGs.

## What can be done to reduce GHG's and ODS?

The best way to deal with these gases is to regenerate them. If this is not possible, they should be destroyed. Hazardous Waste Incineration facilities are well-equipped to do so, avoiding their dispersion into the air.

In 2017, Eurits members facilities plants destroyed over 3.2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and GHGs. This is partially due to the GHGs avoided by generating energy from waste, but mainly because of the destruction of the ODS.



Some of EURITS' members are experts in this field and can offer tools to effectively handle fluorinated gases.

## Contact info

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