



## The Healing of the Ozone Layer Gives Hope, but Addressing Climate Change will Be Harder

### 臭氧层愈合带来了希望，但应对气候变化比这更加困难

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505 Words

Now for some good news about our planet: The **ozone layer** is healing.

现在有一些关于我们的地球家园的好消息：臭氧层正在愈合。

A recent United Nations-backed assessment found continued progress in the global effort to repair the shield-like layer high up in the **stratosphere** that protects Earth and its inhabitants from harmful **ultraviolet radiation** that causes skin cancer and hurts plants and animals. The ozone layer **is** now **on track** to be restored to 1980s levels over much of the world by 2040, over the Arctic by 2045 and the Antarctic by 2066.

最近联合国支持的一项评估发现，在修复平流层中起到保护作用的臭氧层方面，全球不断取得进展。臭氧层能保护地球及地球上的生物免受有害的紫外线辐射，而紫外线辐射会导致皮肤癌，并伤害动植物。到2040年，全球大部分地区的臭氧层很有可能恢复到上世纪80年代的水平，北极地区需要到2045年，南极地区则要到2066年。

The progress scientists have measured is a direct result of the 1987 Montreal Protocol, a treaty approved by every country in the world **outlawing** chemicals that **eat away at** the ozone layer, including **chlorofluorocarbons** that were once used in canned **aerosol** sprays and refrigerants. Nearly 99% of those banned ozone-depleting chemicals have now been **phased out**, according to the report.

科学家们检测到的进展是1987年《蒙特利尔议定书》（全称为“蒙特利尔破坏臭氧层物质管制议定书”）的直接结果。世界上所有国家都批准了该条约，禁止使用消耗臭氧层的化学物质，包括曾经用于罐装气雾剂和制冷剂的氟氯碳化物。根据该报告，近99%的被禁臭氧消耗化学品现已被逐步淘汰。

**ozone layer** 臭氧层

**stratosphere** ['strætəsfiə] *n.* 平流层

**ultraviolet** [ˌʌltrəˈvaɪələt] *adj.* 紫外线的

**radiation** [ˌreɪdiˈeɪʃn] *n.* 辐射，放射线 | a radiation leak from a nuclear power station 核电站的辐射泄漏

**be on track** 有可能获得（想要的结果） | We're still on track for 10% growth. 我们仍然有可能达到10%的增长率。

**outlaw** [ˈaʊtlɔː] *v.* 宣布……不合法，使……成为非法 | The bill would have outlawed several types of guns. 这项法案将全面禁用几种枪支。

**eat away at** 侵蚀，腐蚀，逐渐破坏 | His constant criticism ate away at her self-confidence. 他不断的批评使她逐渐丧失了自信心。

**chlorofluorocarbon** [ˌklɒːroʊˈflɒroʊkɑːrbən] *n.* 氯氟碳化物，含氯氟烃（有害于臭氧层）

**aerosol** [ˈerəsoʊl] *n.* 喷雾器，气雾剂，气溶胶

**phase out** 逐步淘汰，逐步放弃 | The subsidy for company cars is to be phased out next year. 对公司汽

If international cooperation is working successfully to **reverse** the thinning of the ozone layer, **it stands to reason** that multilateral efforts could also prove successful in the fight against climate change and fossil fuels. Or as World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a statement announcing the report, “ozone action sets a **precedent** for climate action.”

如果国际合作成功地扭转了臭氧层变薄的趋势，显然多边努力也可以在对抗气候变化和化石燃料方面取得成功。或者正如世界气象组织秘书长佩蒂瑞·塔拉斯在宣布该报告的声明中所说，“臭氧行动为气候行动树立了榜样。”

The news is encouraging, but the comparison works only **up to a point**. **Curbing** global warming is a far more difficult and an **all-encompassing** task, requiring us to replace the burning of fossil fuels that are at the center of the global economy with clean renewable energy, while reversing the destruction of forests and other ecosystems that store carbon.

这一消息令人鼓舞，但二者不能完全相提并论。遏制全球变暖是一项更困难，更包罗万象的任务，需要我们用清洁的可再生能源取代处于全球经济中心的化石燃料，同时扭转对森林和其他能贮存碳的生态系统的破坏。

The good news is we already know the solutions and have the technology needed to switch to renewable energy. But to succeed in curbing climate change, humanity will have to overcome powerful, **entrenched** fossil fuel interests and their **beholden** politicians. These industries have engaged in decades-long disinformation campaigns to delay climate action and try to **cling to** their profits for as long as possible.

好消息是，我们已经知道了解决方案，并拥有转向可再生能源所需的技术。但要成功遏制气候变化，人类必须战胜强大而根基深厚的化石燃料利益集团和他们仰仗的政客。这些行业数十年来一直在宣传虚假信息，以拖延气候行动，并尽可能长时间地把持利润。

It took only about two years after the discovery of the

车的补贴明年将逐步取消。

**reverse** [rɪˈvɜːrs] v. 颠倒，彻底转变 | The government has failed to reverse the economic decline. 政府未能扭转经济滑坡的趋势。

**it stands to reason** 这是合乎情理的，这是自然的 | It stands to reason that they'll leave if you don't pay them enough. 这是明摆着的，你不给他们足够的报酬，他们就走人。

**precedent** ['presɪdənt] n. 实例，范例，先例 | There is no precedent for a disaster of this scale. 这种规模的灾难是空前的。

**up to a point** 在某种程度上 | That is true, but only up to a point. 说得有道理，不过只限于某种程度。

**curb** [kɜːrb] v./n. 控制，抑制，约束 | He needs to learn to curb his temper. 他得学着控制自己的脾气。

**all-encompassing** adj. 包罗万象的，总括的

**entrenched** [ɪnˈtrentʃt] adj. 根深蒂固的 | Ageism is entrenched in our society. 对老年人的歧视在我们这个社会根深蒂固。

**beholden** [brɪˈhoʊldən] adj. 欠……人情的，受……恩惠的 | She didn't like to be beholden to anyone. 她不愿欠任何人的情。

**cling to** 紧紧抓住(权力等)不放；坚持，墨守(某事物) | The cat tried to cling to the edge by its claws. 那只猫试图用爪子抓紧边沿。

Antarctic ozone hole for global leaders to adopt the Montreal Protocol, showing how quickly the world can come together to confront an environmental threat. But with climate change, scientists have known for decades that **greenhouse gas** pollution is dangerously heating up the planet. Yet global leaders are still largely **dithering**, making only **incremental** progress when we need to be racing to **avert catastrophic** warming. At last year's U.N. climate summit in Egypt, the world's nations could only agree on a **pathetically** weak agreement calling for a "**phasedown** of **unabated** coal power" when it is obvious the solution is to quickly phase out all fossil fuels.

在发现南极臭氧空洞后，全球领导人仅用了大约两年时间就通过了《蒙特利尔议定书》，这表明世界各国可以迅速地团结起来应对环境威胁。但在气候变化方面，科学家们几十年前就知道温室气体污染正在使地球变暖。然而，全球领导人在很大程度上仍然犹豫不决，在我们急需避免灾难性的全球变暖时，他们还在不紧不慢地逐步推进。去年在埃及举行的联合国气候峰会上，世界各国只能达成一项软弱得可怜的协议，呼吁“逐步淘汰未减排的煤电”，而真正的解决方案显然是迅速淘汰所有化石燃料。

It's possible that decades from now we will be celebrating the near-elimination of fossil fuels and tracking the recovery of the atmosphere from our **reckless** dumping of greenhouse gases. But hoping so isn't enough. We have all the tools we need to fight this existential threat and we now know that taking decisive action can get results. We can't wait a moment longer to act.

几十年后，我们可能会庆祝化石燃料近乎消失，追踪从我们鲁莽排放的温室气体中恢复的大气。但只有愿望是不够的。我们拥有对抗这一生存威胁所需的一切工具，我们现在知道，采取果断行动可以取得成效。我们一刻都不能再等了。

**greenhouse gas** 温室气体（尤指二氧化碳）

**dither** ['diðər] *v.* 犹豫不决，踌躇 | She was dithering over what to wear. 她拿不定主意穿什么好。

**incremental** [ˌɪŋkri'mentl] *adj.* 逐渐的，逐步的；增加的 | Mr Kennedy said that progress on reforms would be incremental. 肯尼迪先生说改革将逐步进行。

**avert** [ə'vɜ:rt] *v.* 防止，避免；转移（目光等） | Many traffic accidents can be averted by courtesy. 礼让可以使许多交通事故得以避免。

**catastrophic** [ˌkætə'strofɪk] *adj.* 灾难性的 | Catastrophic floods have devastated the region. 灾难性的洪水摧毁了整个地区。

**pathetically** [pə'θetɪkli] *adv.* 悲伤地，可怜地 | He cried pathetically. 他哭得很悲伤。

**phasedown** ['feɪzdaʊn] *n.* 分阶段减少，逐步减少

**unabated** [ˌʌnə'beɪtɪd] *adj.* 未减弱的，未减少的 | The storm continued unabated throughout the night. 暴风雨持续了一夜，丝毫没有减弱。

**reckless** ['rekləs] *adj.* 鲁莽的，不计后果的 | He was accused of causing death by reckless driving. 他被控因鲁莽驾驶致人死亡。

## ➤ 脉络梳理

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Para. 3 分析臭氧层好转的原因：《蒙特利尔议定书》的有效实施

Para. 4-6 由臭氧层引向气候变化问题，指出气候变化问题更复杂，受到利益集团和政客的阻挠

Para. 7-8 对比处理臭氧层空洞和气候变化所采取的行动，指出要真正解决全球变暖需要迅速采取行动

## ➤ 长难句拆解

