

Greenpeace Position Paper
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**MAJOR JAPANESE REFRIGERATOR MANUFACTURERS TO PRODUCE
HYDROCARBON FRIDGES FOR JAPANESE MARKET IN 2002**

Greenpeace welcomes the November 8, 2001 announcements by three major Japanese refrigerator manufacturers Matsushita/Panasonic, Toshiba, and Hitachi that they will produce and sell "Greenfreeze" refrigerators in the Japanese market in the coming year. Toshiba plans to have Greenfreeze refrigerators on the market in January, Matsushita in February, Hitachi in May and it is expected that other major Japanese producers will follow suit in the near future.

"Greenfreeze" is the name given to refrigeration technology that does not rely on the use of ozone depleting and potent global warming fluorocarbon substances, such as CFCs/HCFCs or HFCs, in the insulation foam or in the cooling system. Instead, the technology uses hydrocarbons for the foam blowing agent and for the refrigerant.

Greenpeace developed the "Greenfreeze" technology in 1992 and has been promoting it world wide ever since. Greenfreeze technology is now dominant in the Western European domestic refrigerator market with 100% of German industry having converted to HCFC/HFC-free technologies. Hydrocarbon refrigerators are produced by all the major European manufacturers in Germany, Denmark, Italy, UK, France, Spain and Sweden. Greenfreeze is also produced by the largest manufacturers in China, as well as in India, Indonesia, Australia, Korea and Cuba. It is estimated that there are over 55 million Greenfreeze refrigerators in the world today.

The penetration of Greenfreeze technology into the Japanese market has been a major goal for the international Greenpeace Ozone and Greenfreeze Campaign.

Greenpeace Japan, with the assistance of Greenpeace International, took numerous initiatives over the years to convince Japanese industry and governmental agencies to introduce Greenfreeze into the Japanese market.

" It is absolutely true that, Greenpeace's work has been the driving force to produce this product."

-Koji Hosokawa (Manager of Products &Technology Public Relations Group,
Panasonic/Matsushita)

Potential Impacts on the markets of South-East Asia and North America:
The production and marketing of Greenfreeze refrigerators for the Japanese market by