



## FACT SHEET: Draft Regulations to Reduce Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are potent greenhouse gases often used in refrigeration and cooling equipment. HFCs have a global warming potential (GWP) -- a metric that measures the ability of gases to trap heat in the atmosphere -- hundreds to thousands of times higher than carbon dioxide.

As part of New York State's ongoing efforts through the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act to reduce the pollutants that contribute to climate change, DEC released [draft regulations](#) for public comment. The draft regulations include prohibitions on new products and equipment that contain HFCs and controls on HFC leaks in commercial -- not everyday consumer - equipment. When enacted, these regulations would help advance the development of better technologies to help reduce emissions and make sure these technologies are viable at a larger scale - reducing the overall cost while also creating more energy-efficient options.

The draft regulation was developed after months of input from potentially affected businesses and other stakeholders and promotes the replacement of HFCs with equally effective alternatives that are better for the environment. Companies operating in New York, including [Aldi and Walgreens, are already piloting technologies](#) to make the switch. DEC's proposed revision is aligned with actions taken by California, Washington, and other U.S. Climate Alliance states.

### **Draft Regulation Overview:**

- **The regulations would not force any business to replace existing products or equipment prior to the end of their useful life.** The proposed rule would phase-out the use of HFCs in new products and equipment.
- **The proposed regulation would provide substantial energy savings,** particularly in cooler climates like New York State, with no direct costs to consumers. Using energy-efficient refrigerants means businesses—especially big commercial stores--spend less on energy costs. An EPA analysis found that when broken down by each state's population New York could see up to \$540 million in energy cost savings.
- **The proposed regulation considers available alternatives to HFCs.** The compliance timeline varies by product and equipment type and recognizes the status of available alternatives on the market.
- **DEC offers multiple options for retail food chains to comply with the proposed regulation,** including replacing refrigerants with low GWP (less than 10), annual emission loss controls, or a combination of both. The program offers multiple options for compliance and extensions, including retail food chain facilities in [disadvantaged communities](#).
- **The draft regulation allows for regulatory flexibility** in the event a compliant substance is not currently or potentially available.
- **The draft regulations were based on EPA regulations** and designed to align with federal and international laws, including the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.
- **The proposed regulation will help transition large scale retail food chains into compliance** and would reduce HFCs to less than two million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year.

**Next Steps:** These draft regulations are currently out for public comment. DEC is accepting feedback and encourages New York stakeholders to provide comments.

Visit <https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/regulations/proposed-emergency-recently-adopted-regulations/climate-change> to submit comments on the HFC proposal until March 19, 2024. For more information, go to the DEC [climate change regulations webpage](#).