

Aeon Wins the Minister's Prize for Environmental Store Equipment in the 16th Japan Ozone Layer Protection and Global Warming Prevention Award

Aeon Co., Ltd. has received the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Prize in the 16th Japan Ozone Layer Protection and Global Warming Prevention Award hosted by The Nikkan Kogyo Shimbun, Ltd.

The award was launched in 1998 by the newspaper publisher specializing in business and industry with the sponsorship of government agencies (the Ministry of the Environment and METI), aiming to promote efforts to mitigate ozone depletion and global warming. Since then, the award has annually commended actions and technologies taken and developed by businesses to contribute to reduced emission of HCFCs and HFCs, methane, nitrous oxide and other major GHGs.

The recent commendation has recognized our environmental contribution activities for introducing and facilitating industrial use of natural refrigerants. Aeon started the efforts in 2009 as Japan's first retailer that has introduced to store operation refrigerators and freezers that use a low-GWP*¹ natural refrigerant*² (CO₂). Since then, it has been working to expand this initiative to all Group stores, enhanced under the Aeon Natural Refrigerants Declaration announced in 2011, to replace conventional refrigerators and freezers with more eco-friendly equipment. The plans include 100% installation of natural refrigerant-based units for refrigerating/freezing function in every new store to open from fiscal 2015 onward.

Currently, natural refrigerant-based refrigerator/freezer showcases have been introduced in ten food supermarkets, including Maxvalu stores, among Group stores. Out of the above ten, five stores are members of the project hosted by the METI to support development of leading technologies for reducing GHG and ozone depleting gas emissions, playing a role in industry-government cooperative activities for increasing use of natural refrigerants. In addition, Aeon is working on development projects together with appliance manufacturers that pursue production for lower cost, by conducting trial operations for new developments.

Aeon will continue to work for increased use of natural refrigerants in cooperation with the government, manufacturers and other retailers, thereby contributing to global climate change mitigation.



*1. Global warming potential (GWP) is a relative measure of how much heat a greenhouse gas traps in the atmosphere. GWP is expressed as a factor of carbon dioxide, whose value is standardized to 1. GWP values for HCFCs and HFCs, known as alternative CFCs, may reach several thousands.

*2. Substances known as natural refrigerants include ammonia and carbon hydride as well as carbon dioxide.

Refrigerator showcase using natural refrigerant (CO₂)
installed at Maxvalu Shin-funabashi Store