

Person of the Year Award



The Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) US's team

Avipsa Mahapatra, Director, Climate Campaign;
Christina Starr, Senior Manager, Climate;
Beth Porter, Senior Climate Policy Analyst

The Environmental Investigation Agency US (EIA US) – led by Avipsa Mahapatra, Director, Climate Campaign; Christina Starr, Senior Manager, Climate; and Beth Porter, Senior Climate Policy Analyst – has helped to influence the transition away from f-gases toward natural refrigerants in the North American cooling and heating industry over the past several years through its investigative and advocacy work.

EIA US's work in the supermarket industry has been particularly notable. For example, the NGO has ranked 16 major U.S. supermarket chains on their progress in reducing HFCs via its Climate-Friendly Supermarket Scorecard. It has also developed a map of HFC-free supermarkets in the U.S. based on public, industry-provided and crowd-sourced data. EIA US investigated dozens of supermarkets in the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland using portable refrigerant leak detectors and found most stores to be leaking HFC refrigerants.

The EIA US has also conducted important investigations of the chemical industry. For example, it exposed that the National Hockey League (NHL) agreed to accept millions of dollars from the Chemours to promote their f-gas refrigerants as environmentally sustainable under the NHL Green program in ice rinks and beyond. It also revealed that a variety of climate-warming and ozone-depleting f-gases were being emitted from two production facilities operated by Honeywell and Chemours in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Corpus Christi, Texas, respectively.