



The Earth's protective ozone layer is starting to repair itself, according to a panel of United Nations scientists. The main reason behind its recovery, they say, is the fact that certain chemicals, such as those used in aerosol cans, were gradually banned in the 1980s. The BBC's Roger Harrabin reports.

It was in the 1980s that many of us became **aware** that small individual actions could **harm** the planet itself.

Hairsprays were cited as one of the causes of the hole in the Antarctic ozone layer. People were told to wear sunscreen to avoid skin cancer as the layer thinned and more **UV light** got through.

By 1987 world governments had agreed to ban most of the ozone-eating chemicals.

The World Meteorological Organisation say at last the ozone layer is showing signs of thickening, although it will be a while before they know if the hole is actually **healing**.

The same organisation **warned** earlier this week that **climate change** was heading in the opposite direction with **greenhouse gases** in the atmosphere at a record level.

Vocabulary and definitions

aware	having knowledge of something existing
harm	hurt or injure
UV light	light from the sun humans can't see and which can cause cancer
healing	(here) recovering
warned	alerted about danger
climate change	significant variation in the Earth's temperature
greenhouse gases	carbon dioxide and other gases which cause climate change

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2014/09/140912_witn_ozone.shtml

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