

## Refrigerant Emissions Elimination Forum (REEF) Receives Grant Support from the Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust

*Press Release: June 2, 2026*

The Refrigerant Emissions Elimination Forum (REEF) is pleased to announce that the **Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust** has awarded a grant to support REEF's efforts advancing one of the most powerful yet under-addressed climate solutions: **eliminating the negative climate and environmental impacts of refrigerants**.

The grant will provide general operating support for REEF's work from May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027, helping REEF expand its efforts to inspire and drive **business action on refrigerant emissions as a means to transform the broader refrigerant landscape** toward zero climate and environmental impact.

"This support from Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust is a game-changer," said REEF Executive Director, Aleisha Khan. "As we leverage our industry position to scale up awareness among end-users, this grant will allow REEF to inform smart refrigerant investments and operational practices that benefit both the bottom line and the climate."

Refrigerants are among the fastest-growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions globally. According to Project Drawdown, action on refrigerant management and alternatives could deliver **more than 100 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent reductions by 2050**, representing one of the greatest near-term opportunities to reduce global warming this decade. Yet many end-users of HVAC equipment lack awareness of evolving **refrigerant requirements, operational risks, and opportunities for cost-savings and decarbonization**, resulting in implementation and adoption lagging far behind what climate targets require.

REEF works to **close this gap between policy ambition and real-world impact** by convening building owners and operators alongside manufacturers, policymakers, and researchers to accelerate adoption of low- and zero-GWP refrigerants and effective lifecycle refrigerant management practices across commercial and institutional HVAC systems.

Since its founding in 2023, REEF has rapidly grown into a leading voice on lifecycle refrigerant management and low-GWP cooling solutions. REEF's member community comprises organizations managing **over 180 million square feet of commercial and healthcare facilities**; REEF's current members include Google, A-Gas, Hudson Technologies, Roche, Genentech, and Kaiser Permanente, amongst others.

In 2025 and 2026, REEF expanded its public webinar series, hosted Climate Week events in New York and San Francisco, co-developed the [Sustainable Refrigerant Procurement Toolkit](#) with the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council, and increased engagement with state policymakers and technical standards bodies advancing the implementation of the AIM Act and next-generation refrigerant technologies.

The Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust will support REEF as it **expands its coalition of building owners and operators and advances practical solutions** that help organizations reduce refrigerant emissions, lower operational risk, and accelerate market transformation. Looking ahead, REEF's work will focus on:

- Moving owner-operators in both the private and public sector from **awareness to action** on lifecycle refrigerant management;
- Advancing **state policy environments** to both lock in the intended impact of the AIM Act and exceed it through proven technologies and practices; and
- Expanding the **influence of end-user demand for refrigerant best practice** to drive rapid market transformation.

"Taking urgent action to keep fluorinated gases out of the atmosphere and reduce the climate impact of heating and cooling our buildings is achievable and scalable today," Khan explained. "REEF is working to accelerate that transition across the industry."

#### **About REEF**

REEF is a California-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on eliminating the climate and environmental impacts of refrigerants. REEF's work centers on elevating refrigerants from an overlooked operational issue to a strategic priority for business leaders and policymakers. Through peer-to-peer collaboration, market coordination, policy engagement, and connecting purchasing influence with technical solutions, REEF ensures the buyer and operator perspective drives system-level change by converting commitments into measurable climate impact.

#### **About The Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust**

The Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust is a progressive family foundation guided by the values of its founders. The Trust advocates for social change that promotes human dignity and contributes to a more just, democratic, and environmentally sustainable world.