

The new Carbon Country Neutrality Program in Costa Rica seeks to be a key tool, with robust data, inventories of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) and a new system to incorporate companies, organizations and municipalities, in the country's efforts to reach the zero stage greenhouse gas emissions in the near future.

This Program shares a longer-term vision based on the progress that will be achieved in three different milestones of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Costa Rica: one through 2030; another to 2050; and finally another one at 2100.

This Program began in 2012 with only 2 participating organizations, and has increased in recent years to 96 organizations.

But we need this number of leading and visionary organizations to continue growing, as well as their contribution to the country goal. These 96 organizations have reported throughout the Program about 2 million 500 thousand tons of CO₂e (equivalent carbon dioxide) with rigorous and verified inventories. Of the 96 organizations, 92 (representing about 250,000 of the inventoried tons) have completed the cycle to be carbon neutral and have achieved a 19% reduction from the total of their reported emissions, which means about 50 thousand tons reduced, and whose other emissions have been compensated and / or removed. The other 4 organizations (representing the rest of the reported emissions) are entities with an intense productive activity in emissions, and through their commitment they have managed to reduce another 50,000 tons. This leads us to the fact that through the program about

100,000 tons of CO₂e have been reduced and about 200,000 tons have been offset and / or removed.

To bring the new Program to the desired effect of amplification, the various economic activities should gradually and voluntarily be subject to a vision of "decarbonization" of the national economy. The goal is that the country can bring its emissions to zero percent by 2085 and organizations, communities and, in general, citizens are key to achieving this goal.

By 2021 our country expects to have taken the use of plastic bags out of commerce, the problem is the transnational companies that import and sell their products in plastic containers.

Costa Rica has changed to the use of paper bags and cardboard boxes for easy recycling.

Our electric power's largest distribution is produced by the hydroelectric power plant (7 large dams) but, wind power is being developed in three areas of the country (Tilarán, Santa Ana and Zona de los Santos), the geothermal energy is obtained from our volcano Miravalles and recently solar energy is produced by photocells.

In 2018, the government introduced electric cars without taxes so that the population can acquire them financed by state banks at low interest rates; The main producer of electricity in the country has put at the request of the government, free electric charging stations for one year in public parks and offices of the energy producing company.

These are some of the latest data that we can present in broad strokes.

Thank you.

Costa Rica, País Carbono Neutral

El nuevo Programa País de Carbono Neutralidad busca ser una herramienta clave, con datos robustos, inventarios de Gases de Efecto Invernadero (GEI) y un novedoso sistema para incorporar a empresas, organizaciones y municipalidades, en los esfuerzos del país para llegar al escenario de cero emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero en un futuro de mediano plazo.

Este Programa comparte una visión de más largo plazo tomando como base los avances que se alcanzarán en tres distintos hitos de la Contribución Nacionalmente Determinada (NDC) de Costa Rica: uno al 2030; otro al 2050; y, finalmente, otro al 2100.

Se inició este Programa en el 2012 con solo 2 organizaciones participantes, y se ha aumentado en los últimos años, para llegar al día de hoy a contar con 96 organizaciones.

Pero necesitamos que este número de organizaciones líderes y visionarias siga creciendo, así como su contribución con la meta país. Estas 96 organizaciones han reportado a lo largo del Programa cerca de 2 millones 500 mil toneladas de CO₂e (dióxido de carbono equivalente) con inventarios rigurosos y verificados. De las 96 organizaciones, 92 (que representan cerca de 250.000 de las toneladas inventariadas) han completado el ciclo para ser carbono neutrales y han logrado una reducción del 19% respecto del total de sus emisiones reportadas, lo que significa cerca de 50 mil toneladas reducidas, y cuyo resto de emisiones han sido compensadas y/o removidas. Las otras 4 organizaciones (que representan el resto de las emisiones reportadas) son entidades con una actividad productiva intensa en

emisiones, y mediante su compromiso han logrado reducir otras 50.000 toneladas. Esto nos lleva a que mediante el programa se han reducido cerca de 100.000 toneladas de CO₂e y se hayan compensado y/o removido cerca de 200.000 toneladas.

Para llevar el nuevo Programa al efecto deseado de amplificación, las diversas actividades económicas deberían sujetarse de forma paulatina y voluntaria a una visión de “descarbonización” de la economía nacional. El objetivo es que el país pueda llevar sus emisiones a un cero por ciento al año 2085 y las organizaciones, comunidades y, en general, los ciudadanos son clave para el logro de este objetivo.

Para el 2021 nuestro país espera haber sacado del comercio el uso de las bolsas plásticas, el problema son las empresas transnacionales que importan y venden sus productos en contenedores plásticos.

Se ha cambiado al uso de bolsas de papel y cajas de cartón de fácil reciclaje.

Nuestra energía eléctrica, su mayor distribución las producen la hidroeléctrica (7 grandes represas) pero, se está dando paso a la energía eólica en tres zonas del país (Tilarán, Santa Ana y Zona de los Santos), la energía geotérmica obtenida de nuestro volcán Miravalles y recientemente el paso a la energía solar producida por las fotoceldas.

El año 2018 el gobierno introdujo los autos eléctricos sin impuestos para que la población pueda adquirirlos financiados por los bancos del estado a bajos intereses; la principal productora de energía eléctrica del país ha puesto a pedido del gobierno, estaciones de recarga eléctrica gratuitos por un año en parques públicos y oficinas de la empresa productora de energía.

Nuestros autos particulares son rigurosamente revisados para por una empresa anualmente sobre su presentación física; estado de las llantas, frenos y emisión de gases; los autos de transporte público son revisados dos veces al año.

Estos son algunos de los últimos datos que a grandes rasgos podemos presentar.

Muchas gracias.

COSTA RICA INFORMATION

Costa Rica is a small democratic country located in Central America, between Nicaragua and Panama.

AREA:

Its extension is 151.000 square kilometers. It is bordered by the two oceans: the Pacific and the Caribbean/Atlantic.

You can travel from Nicaragua`s border to Panama`s border in 12 hours or from the Pacific to the Atlantic in 8 hours.

POPULATION:

It has more than 6,000.000 population.

GOVERNMENT:

It has a democratic government, without an army since 1949 when it was abolished. The elections run every four years, presidents can be reelected but not in the immediate period.

There are four power branches:

- Executive Power (the president, 2 vice-presidents and 12 ministers)**
- Legislative Power (57 representatives)**
- Judicial Power**
- Electoral Tribune**

RELIGION:

It has free religion, but predominated the Catholic religion.

LANGUAGE:

The official language is Spanish. But you can find Chinese/Mandarin, and "patua language" (a mix of English and Spanish) using in the Caribbean zone of Limon. Also, you can find that almost 50% of the population, especially young people can understand and speak English too.

CLIMATE AND TEMPERATURE:

We only have two seasons:

the dry season (people called summer) normally from January to April
the rainy season (called winter) from May to December, normally we have sunny mornings and rainy afternoons

The temperature is almost the same during all the year, it goes from 15 Celsius degrees in the highest zones to 35 Celsius degrees in the lowest zones.

POLITICAL DIVISION:

Costa Rica is divided in 7 provinces subdivided each one in districts, each one has its own political government with a major elected by population. The seven provinces are: San José (the Capital), Heredia, Alajuela, Cartago, Puntarenas, Limón and Guanacaste.

EDUCATION:

Education is free and obligated until ninth grade. You can find public or private schools all over the country. We also have 4 public universities (Universidad de Costa Rica/UCR with 32.000 students, Universidad Nacional Autónoma/UNA with 19.000 students, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia/UNED with 12.000 students and Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica/TEC with 10.000 students and a lot of private ones.

FLORA AND FAUNA:

Costa Rica has a big biodiversity in flora and fauna. We can say we have almost 60% of the different species in the world. Almost 30% of the area belongs to National Parks.

MONEY:

We use colones and have various bill denominations, ₡50.000 , ₡20.000, ₡10.000, ₡5.000, ₡2.000, and ₡1.000 .



Exchange rate varies daily but in cents. For reference you will receive approximately 600 colones per dollar.

Taxes: the sell tax in Costa Rica is 13%

Tipping: by law a 10% is added to restaurants bills to cover tips, an extra amount is very welcome in places commonly visited by tourists. Remember only if you receive an excellent service.



PARTNERS *of the* AMERICAS

Oregon-Costa Rica Adult Cultural Exchange

August 8, 2019

Attn: Robin Mullens

Dear Robin,

Thank you very much for giving the visiting Costa Ricans a chance to visit city council on September 25. We have appreciate the time and care that the City of Portland staff and the City Council gives to our visitors. The visit has been a highlight of their trip to Oregon in the last several years.

Visitors coming from Nicoya:

Marita Mena Venegas

Maria Navarro Baltodano

Visitors coming from Pérez Zeledón (San Isidro General)

Elvia González Fallas

Heráclides Vindas Abarca & Daisy Elizondo Sánchez

Visitors coming from Guápiles:

Yamileth Jiménez Noguera

Zaira Barrantes Lobo

Luis Angel Valverde Morera & Emilia Castillo Castro

Visitors coming from San Jose:

Eduardo Vargas Mora & Eva Madrigal Viquez

Thank you again,

Karen Graham

Chair, Oregon Partners Adult Cultural Exchange

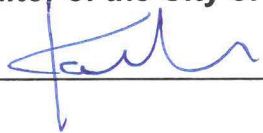
Partners of the Americas Oregon-Costa Rica Adult Cultural Exchange
(Presentation introduced by Commissioner Eudaly)

SEP 25 2019

PLACED ON FILE

Filed SEP 17 2019

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		