

## **Costa Rica National Decarbonization Plan**

"Decarbonisation is the great task of our generation and Costa Rica must be among the first countries to achieve it, if not the first," declared the President of the Republic of Costa Rica, Mr. Carlos Alvarado Quesada.

On Saturday, January 24th, 2019, Costa Rica announced its public commitment to "go beyond the usual" in the global efforts and commitments to aspire to become a modern, green, emission-free, resilient and inclusive economy where human rights and gender equity are respected.

### **What is the National Decarbonization Plan of Costa Rica?**

Costa Rica has achieved important environmental advances in previous decades, including an electricity network free of emissions in more than a 95% and very low rates of deforestation with a forest cover that exceeds 52% of the territory.

To do this, Costa Rica will make significant changes in: a) its mobility offers and transport (public and private), b) the management of their sources of energy, c) sustainable constructions and in the country 's industry and, d) in the waste management. Guidelines to improve agricultural practices and land use, avoiding deforestation are also part to the Plan.

The plan offers a road map to promote the modernization of the Costa Rican economy, generate jobs and boost its growth based on a model that generates 3D services goods: Decarbonized, Digitized and Decentralized in electricity production. In addition, the plan will be used as the basis for two more initiatives: The National Plan for Development and Public Investments (2018-2022) and the Strategic Plan Costa Rica 2050 (Long-Term Strategy).

All these measures, actions and improvements adopted in the country are part of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that Costa Rica will present in 2020 before the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to demonstrate its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and participate in the global effort so the global temperature does not rise above 2 degrees Celsius with respect to the pre-industrial era.

## Concrete goals

The strategy has 10 axes with very specific goals:

**1)** Develop a safe public transport system (buses, taxis and train) and shared commute, powered by clean energy (without emissions) in an efficient way that would make the use of private cars less attractive to travel.

### GOALS:

**2035:** 70% of buses and taxis will be zero emissions, Train will operate 100% electric.

**2050:** transportation system will replace private vehicles as the main transportation option.

**2050:** 100% of buses and taxis will be zero emissions.

**2)** Progressively transform the vehicle fleet of the country from light fossil fuel cars to zero emission vehicles and promote business models for autonomous shared cars.

The country will implement an extensive electric recharge network throughout the country and with complementary infrastructure for zero emission technologies, for example, hydrogen stations.

### GOALS:

**2025:** The growth of motorcycle purchases will stabilize and standards will be adopted to favor the sales of motorcycles zero emissions

**2035:** 25% of the vehicle fleet will be electric

**2050:** 100% of sales of new light vehicles will be zero emissions vehicles and 60% of the fleet of light vehicles -private and public- will be zero emissions.

**3)** Reduce the environmental impact of freight transport in the country by favoring the adoption of energy efficiency technologies and vehicles with low carbon emissions.

### GOALS:

**2022:** The country will have a public inventory on the emissions made by the fleet of cargo vehicles. Pilot plans will be put in place to increase truck efficiency by improving transport logistics.

**2050:** At least 50% of cargo transport will be highly efficient and will have reduced emissions by 20% compared to 2018 emissions.

**4)** Consolidate a national electrical system capable of supplying and managing renewable energy at a competitive cost for users. Improve the efficient management of clients and territories through the digitalization of institutional and commercial processes.

### GOALS:

**2030:** The country's electricity matrix must operate at 100% with renewable energies.

**2050:** Electric power will be a primary source of energy for the transport, residential, and commercial, industrial sectors.

**5)** Develop buildings for commercial, residential and institutional use under high efficiency and low emission standards.

GOALS:

**2030:** 100% of new commercial, residential and institutional buildings will be designed and built adopting low emission technologies.

**2050:** 100% of commercial, residential and institutional buildings will operate with low emission standards, also implementing the use of renewable energy in cooking and hot water processes.

**6)** Modernize the industrial sector through the application of electrical, sustainable and more efficient processes.

GOALS:

**2030:** There will be a comprehensive design strategy and business models that consider the necessary actions to mitigate and take responsibility for the impact of a product from birth, distribution and subsequent disposal: what is called "cradle to grave".

**2050:** The industrial sector will rely more on low-emission energy sources.

**7)** Develop an integrated waste management system based on the separation, reuse, revaluation and final disposal with maximum efficiency and low emissions.

GOALS:

**2022:** There will be a Strategy and National Plan for Better Technological Options to reduce methane emissions from organic waste.

**2030:** Costa Rica will have a citizen and business culture oriented to a lower generation, waste and a successful management of them.

**2050:** 100% of the territory will have solutions for the collection, separation, reuse and disposal of waste.

**8)** Support the adoption of efficient and low carbon food technology that generates export goods and also for local consumption.

GOAL:

**2050:** At least 50% of cargo transport will be highly efficient and will have reduced emissions by 20% compared to 2018 emissions.

**9)** Consolidate livestock models based on productive efficiency and reduction of greenhouse gases.

GOAL:

**2050:** National producers will adopt the most advanced technology in accordance with sustainability, competitiveness and low emissions standards.

**10)** Consolidation of a model of management of rural, urban and coastal territories that facilitates the protection of biodiversity, the increase and maintenance of forest coverage and ecosystem services.

GOAL:

**2030:** Increase forest coverage in Costa Rica to 60% to consolidate biological corridors and increase the availability of green areas for recreation.

**How do you plan to achieve?**

To promote the desired changes in Costa Rica, will focus on a green tax reform, as well as an institutional reform that includes the modernization of the Costa Rican Petroleum Refinery (RECOPE), Costa Rican Electricity Institute (ICE) and Ministry of Public Works and Transportation (MOPT) and the Public Transportation Council (CTP). In addition, the country will seek to advance in the processes of digitization, digital connectivity, smart cities and teleworking, among others.

The decarbonization process will be strengthened through educational strengthening initiatives to achieve changes in habits and culture, as well as the attraction of investments. Transparency in processes, metrics and open data are some of the tools to render accounts of this process to the national and international community.

Costa Rica is preparing to face the challenges of the "fourth industrial revolution". Costa Rica recognizes that its competitive advantages lie in enhancing: its natural capital, its human capital, its renewable energy capital, with the use of technology and digitalization, to add value and produce well-being.

**When is the goal expected to be achieved?**

Through this plan, the Government of Costa Rica defines that its goal is to be a zero net emissions economy by 2050. This goal is consistent with science and with the recent IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C. The policy packages presented and the planning process developed are considered as starting actions, which should be complemented and updated.

Fulfilling a goal at 2050 does not mean postponing actions, but rather managing fundamental transformations.