

ZEV COMMUNITY



Country: Costa Rica

Area: 51,100 km²

Population: 5.094 million
(2020) [World Bank](#)

GDP: \$95.791 billion

Total vehicles registered
(all categories): 1.8 million

COSTA RICA: TAKING ACTION ON ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES

Costa Rica aims to have a green, resilient, and equitable economy with net zero emissions. The country is looking to achieve this by electrifying all sectors and ensuring that energy is produced from renewable sources. In 2021, 99.8% of Costa Rica's energy was generated from renewable sources.

After the launch of their [National Decarbonisation Plan in 2018](#), Costa Rica moved away from an 'intensive development' model to a 'bioeconomy' one. The latter model promotes green growth, social inclusion, and sustainable development – to help improve quality of life. Decarbonising transport is a key component of this plan. According to its Nationally determined contributions (NDCs), by 2030 at least 8% of Costa Rica's public transport fleet will be zero emissions, and at least 8% of its light vehicle fleet – both private and institutional – will be electric.

- ZEVs on the road: 4,658 (inclusive of light duty vehicles, motorcycles, and vehicles for special use (December 2021).
- EV charging plugs: 139 (2021).

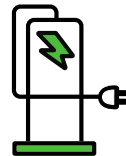


Instituto Costarricense de Electricidad (ICE)

KEY POLICIES



Financial and non-financial incentives: In 2018, all taxes for the purchase of new EVs and their spare parts (vehicle value, sales, selective consumption, customs value) were waived, as well as the annual vehicle property tax ([Law 9518](#)). There are also other non-financial incentives in place to drive EV uptake such as the elimination of license plate driving restrictions and free parking in designated areas.



National fast recharging network: Law 9518 has established that distribution companies must build charging infrastructure to cover the main roads in the country. Further studies have confirmed that this equates to the installation of 65 fast recharging centers.



Electrification of public transport systems: It is law that all public transport – which includes trains (passenger and freight), taxis and buses – uses renewable energy. For buses, there is a target to replace 5% of the fleet every 2 years. Costa Rica is also aiming to construct and commission an urban electric train by 2030.



Government fleet: According to a government directive, electric vehicles should be the first option for any public procurement of new vehicles.

GHG EMISSIONS TARGETS

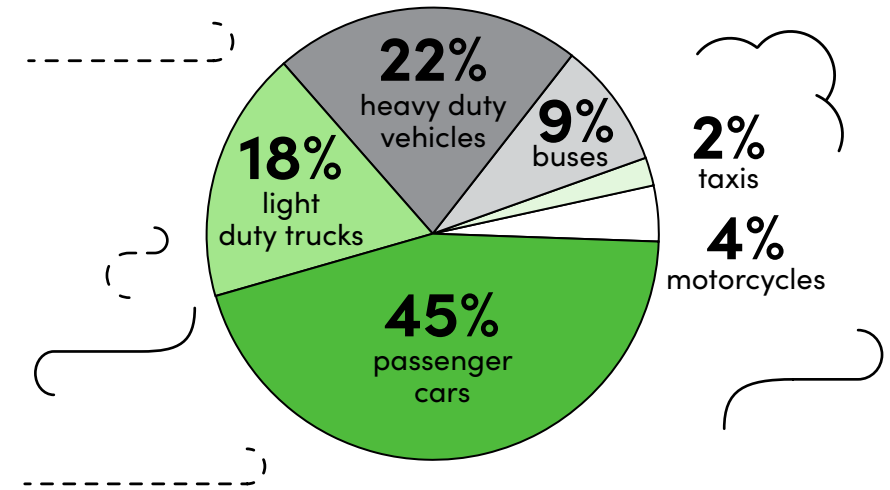
Total GHG emissions for Costa Rica in 2017 were **4.63 million tonnes** of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e). The country has set a target of maximum absolute net emissions of 9.11 million tonnes of CO₂e by 2030.

76.4% of

energy emissions are from transport, equivalent to 41.5% of total GHG emissions

55.1 %

of Costa Rica's GHG emissions are from the energy sector



EV TARGETS

95%

of light duty vehicles electric (private and institutional) zero emission by 2035.

2035



85%

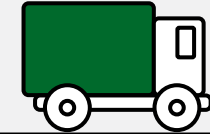
of all public transport zero emission by 2050.

2050



20%

reduction of GHG emissions from freight transport as compared to 2018 by 2050.



KEY OUTCOMES



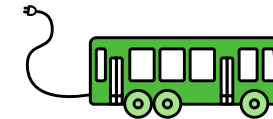
EV Uptake: EV sales grew by 40% during 2021. The latest figures ([December 2021](#)) indicate there were 2,529 electric cars, 858 electric motorcycles and 1,271 special use vehicles (such as golf carts) in circulation within the country.



Costa Rica-Panama interconnection: Costa Rica and Panama have inaugurated the San José - Panama City Electric Route. It is an EV charging network which connects the two countries and allows EV users to travel from Costa Rica to Panama without needing to worry about charging.



Creation of tourist electric routes: Two routes with a network of charging stations have been created from the capital to key touristic sites in the country (Monteverde and La Fortuna). These routes integrate electric transport and promote sustainable tourism.



Electrification of public transport: By 2050, the public transport system should operate in an integrated manner, with private cars replaced as the first mobility option for the population. Electric buses are running on national routes - they are currently gathering technical information to help demonstrate the benefits of electric vehicles.