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## How a Town in Costa Rica is Leading the Way to Carbon-Neutrality



**SAN JOSE, Costa Rica – April 13, 2016** – In an effort to solidify its commitment to the environment, Costa Rica, home to five percent of the world’s biodiversity, has developed a National Climate Strategy that aims to make the country completely carbon-neutral by 2100. However, despite the country’s popular eco-friendly approach, many are unaware of the efforts taking place at one of its most-visited tourist destinations: the town of Monteverde.

Located in the mountainous northwest region of the country, the town is known for its Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve and the plethora of adventure-driven and outdoor activities including zip lining, hiking and bird-watching, among others.

Although a small town, Monteverde is a prime example that changing behaviors and implementing actions for the reduction of emissions can create a viable and sustainable plan for today and tomorrow. With an economy dependent on eco-tourism and agriculture, the urgency to reduce carbon emissions is a collective concern.

The town is a first-hand witness of the effects of climate change that result from transportation and electricity, farming and waste, and fertilizers. To compensate for these emissions, Monteverde is revamping its structure to provide clean energy alternatives for carbon-reduction, efforts that are aided by the Monteverde Climate Movement. The mission is to not only reduce the region’s carbon output, but to also reduce it enough to compensate for the emissions of the rest of the country.

“Monteverde has been a model for grassroots conservation efforts both nationally and internationally,” said Katy VanDusen, vice-president of the Monteverde Community Fund and clerk of the Monteverde Friends Meeting. “The initiative involves systematically working with existing public, private and not-for-profit organizations to create win-win solutions.”

Some of the steps being taken include: installing sidewalks so pedestrians can walk safely; opting to purchase electric cars; and having the town's farmer's market, grocery stores and restaurants offer produce from local farms. The town is also increasing the number of water heaters and solar electric panels that they own, as well as installing a large number of manure digesters as an alternative to propane and a source for cleaner water and fertilizers. Additionally, the town is placing a strong focus on growing and caring for the region's forests.

For more information on Costa Rica, visit [www.visitcostarica.com](http://www.visitcostarica.com)

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### **About Costa Rica**

Costa Rica is located in Central America between Nicaragua to the north and Panama to the south; it is bordered on the east by the Caribbean Sea and the west by the Pacific Ocean. With an abundance of unique wildlife, landscapes and climates this small country proudly shelters approximately five percent of the known biodiversity in the world. In order to protect and preserve its wealth of natural resources, Costa Rica has become a global leader in sustainable practices with protected areas comprising 26 percent of its land mass. With a peaceful spirit, emphasis on education and an economy based on tourism, technology and exportation, Costa Rica offers one of the highest standards of living in Latin America. Visitors to Costa Rica enjoy a highly organized tourism infrastructure among a tropical paradise of lush rainforests, mystical volcanoes and cloud forests and beaches that meet mountains filled with monkeys and macaws. Offering a broad terrain of activities and accommodations, visitors to Costa Rica will find a range of hotel options ranging from small beachside bed & breakfasts to authentic intimate boutique mountain lodges to major international business hotel brands and everything in between. Costa Rica's accommodations offer something appealing for everyone's desires. The phrase "Pura Vida" can be heard echoing throughout Costa Rica from coast to coast. Used as a greeting or expression of happiness, the phrase literally translates to "pure life," however its true meaning is "full of life," which accurately describes the adventure and wonder that await visitors.

### **About Instituto Costarricense de Turismo (ICT)**

Established in 1955, the Costa Rica Tourism Board spearheads the vital task of regulating and promoting Costa Rica's extensive of tourism offerings. The ICT and its partners in the private sector work tirelessly to garner recognition, standardize practices, provide insightful research data and foster cultural development for the country's coast to coast one-of a kind tourism products and resources.