



IPHE Country Update Mar 2024 – Nov 2024: Costa Rica

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1. New Initiatives, Programs, and Policies on Hydrogen and Fuel Cells

With the financial support of the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB), the Costa Rican Ministry for Energy and Environment (MINAE) has concluded the feasibility study for the creation of a Green Hydrogen Knowledge and Innovation Hub in Costa Rica, and a prefeasibility study for the implementation of green hydrogen in a local private cement plant. These results were recently made public on November 15, 2024. This study was a follow-up analysis to the presentation of the Costa Rican Green Hydrogen Strategy in 2023.

2. Hydrogen and Fuel Cell R&D Update

N/A

3. Demonstration, Deployments, and Workforce Developments Update

Status of Current Demonstration Projects:

- The Costa Rican Hydrogen Ecosystem pilot project continues to operate nominally, serving a small fleet of 4 FCEVs and providing fuel for the initial tests and commissioning of the recently acquired fleet of fuel cell buses.

Deployments:

- Arrival of 13 fuel cell buses to Costa Rica was completed in March 2024
- In July of 2024, ProNova Energy initiated the design phase of a 1 MW, 430 kg H₂/day commercial project focused on medium and heavy-duty transportation

Workforce Development:

- Costa Rica's Hydrogen School completed the 3rd cycle of hands-on training. Four students have completed their training.

4. Events and Solicitations

N/A



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELLS IN THE ECONOMY

5. Investments: Government and Collaborative Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Funding

On June 28, 2024, the Mitigation Action Facility (MAF) informed the Costa Rican Ministry of Energy and Environment (MINAE) the approval to start the implementation phase of the project "Green Hydrogen for a Decarbonised Economy in Costa Rica (NAMA - gH2 CR)". This 5-year project includes a grant of €25 million which will support the deployment of several pilot projects as well as the creation of a financial mechanism which will provide soft loans for the development of green hydrogen projects. This project is coordinated by the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ) on behalf of MINAE, includes several actors from the private and financial sectors, including the International Finance Corporation (IFC) from the World Bank Group and other local banks. IFC and the other banking institutions have committed up to an additional \$100 million to create the soft loan mechanism.

The privately-funded Pronova Energy 1 MW heavy-duty hydrogen transportation pilot project has begun its design phase, due February 2025. Initial seed funding has been secured, and financial closure is expected to conclude Q1 2025. Project aims to become operational in Q4 2026.

6. Regulations, Codes & Standards, and Safety Update

The National Technical Committee on hydrogen-related standards has continued working towards the adoption of new hydrogen- and fuel-cell- related hydrogen technical standards.