

Costa Rica is the answer to all of this. What's the question? Well....

We have a problem, our modern world is built on cheap energy. Many countries are still very dependant on fossil fuels.

You see while fossil fuels are cheap energy they are also very dirty, and do lots of damage to the environment.

Seriously, we must stop burning fossil fuels. There are lots of cleaner alternatives.

Some places have been more successful than others.

What we are not talking enough about is the places who have no reliable access to fuel at all. It is no coincidence that these places are some of the poorest in the world.

People without fuel can't cook properly, that means they don't eat properly.

They cannot put the lights on at night or heat their homes when it's cold.

They cannot power machines to make the things they need, or properly run services for people like hospitals, schools, factories for jobs.

How could anyone deny them cheap fuel? But if tens of millions more people started burning oil and gas? Just like developed parts of the world do now? The pollution!

There must be another way, and there is, I already told you. It's Costa Rica!

Costa Rica is a pretty small country in Central America. There's about 5 million people, and they all speak Spanish just like me.

Costa Rica is not the biggest of players on the international scene, but in one important way they lead the world.

Because although Costa Rica is still classed as a developing country, it runs on sustainable energy.

It all started because they wanted to be self-sufficient.

Costa Rica has no fossil fuels, so they imported coal, gas and oil. Relying on others is risky business because you have no energy security.

But Costa Rica does have lots of other natural resources.

Water can generate hydroelectricity. Wind to blow turbines, sun for solar panels, even geology helping us out with the heat from deep underground.

By spending money on technology and infrastructure instead of fossil fuels, Costa Ricans have cheap, clean power that cannot be cut off and will never be used up.

Costa Rica chose sustainability, and actually, we all have the same option.

We can switch to a sustainable energy supplier. Choose appliances that are energy efficient. Conserve power, turn stuff off, insulation. Put a jumper on if you are cold, not the heating!

Small actions make big changes.

Let's be more Costa Rica!