



**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION**

ENVIRONMENT • SUSTAINABILITY • EDUCATION
Nosara, Costa Rica • wcanosara.org



WCA SUSTAINABLE NOSARA CERTIFICATION

**Become a purpose-driven, business leader in the
Nosara Community.**

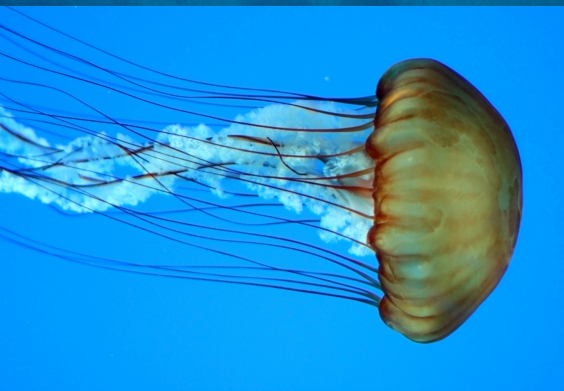
Everything you need to know to become a part of
the movement to reduce our impact on the
environment.



In today's economy, the only thing certain is change.

Are you seeking something more adaptive and strategic than the standard "bottom line"?

Become a purpose-driven, business leader in the Nosara Community with the **TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE: Profits, People, and Planet.**



97%

97% of consumers in Nosara believe it's very important for local businesses to do their part to protect the local environment.

Get certified and reduce your impact!

[Apply online now!](#)





PROFITS

PROFITS: Align your business model with sustainability practices to invest in our planet and drive your business success.



PEOPLE: Get buy-in with your stakeholders. Develop fair hiring practices, volunteerism in the workplace, and forming strategic partnerships with nonprofit organizations.



PEOPLE



PLANET: Reduce your carbon footprint and impact on the planet with ethically sourced materials and cutting down on energy consumption.

PLANET





About the WCA Sustainable Nosara Certification Program

The WCA Sustainable Nosara Certification Program supports the efforts of local businesses working to reduce their environmental impact by recognizing them with a certification as a sustainable local business.

Our aim is to create a community of eco-conscious businesses and patrons that improves the environment in Nosara for residents, tourists and wildlife.

We provide resources and incentives to business leaders to lower the impact of their business on the environment.

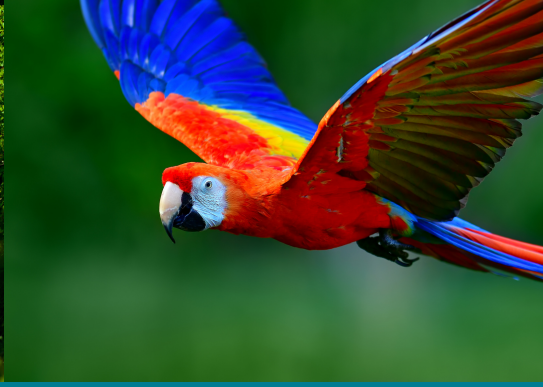
We encourage patrons to support eco-friendly businesses that are doing their part to protect our oceans, wildlife, tourism industry and the Nosara we all love.



Become a purpose-driven, business leader in the Nosara Community

Leverage sustainable business strategies to affect positive environmental change and conservation action without hampering financial performance.





**Join the movement to
reduce your impact!**



Program Benefits

Certified businesses will receive the following direct benefits:

- Framed & Digital Certificate identifying you as an environmental changemaker and a business committed to the sustainable development of Nosara
- Promotional Stickers
- Promotion on our social media channels
- Feature on SustainableNosara.com



WCA SUSTAINABLE NOSARA CERTIFIED

THE RESTAURANT
GOLD NAUTILUS LEVEL



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DID YOU KNOW?

Most of the pollution in our oceans comes from plastic which makes up 80% of marine debris.



A healthy environment is important to human health and the economy.

Here are some additional benefits of participation in this program:

- This program will help visitors make conscious decisions.
- Getting certified will improve your operational efficiency and potentially even reduce operational costs.
- Your certification will improve your reputation and allow you to establish trust and transparency with your customer base.
- Participation will differentiate your business to attract customers and drive sales, while achieving the triple bottom line (Profit, People & Planet).
- You'll receive recognition for your efforts to be a sustainable business that cares about the current and future community of Nosara.

Requirements

1. Be a registered legal business, not-for-profit or charity
2. Business owners must approve of undergoing the certification process
3. Be located in the greater Nosara area (Garza to Santa Marta)
4. Meet the basic mandatory requirements (listed in bold)
5. Provide documentation as requested by the WCA
6. Commit to planning and improving annually

HOW IT WORKS



1

APPLY

Submit a payment and application to provide your contact information and check off all of the sustainability goals you meet (see program goals).



2

APPLICATION REVIEW

We will review your application and schedule an on-site meeting with you.



3

SITE VISIT & PLAN

We will verify your responses, answer questions, and develop a plan of action with specific areas where you can improve.



4

FOLLOW UP & CERTIFICATION

We will calculate which tier you qualify for and issue you a digital and framed certificate to display.



5

ANNUAL REVIEW

We will annually review your certification to help you continue to improve and move up in tiers.

Certification Categories & Tiers



CERTIFICATION CATEGORIES



Restaurants



Hospitality



Retail



Office



CERTIFICATION TIERS



BRONZE NAUTILUS LEVEL

Meets minimum 25% of goals



SILVER NAUTILUS LEVEL

Meets 26% - 50% of goals



GOLD NAUTILUS LEVEL

Meets 75%+ or more of goals



PROGRAM FEES

In order to cover the cost of running this program, we will charge the following fees for certifications:

\$100 - Restaurants, Office, and Retail

\$250 - Hotels & Rentals with up to 10 rooms

+\$250 - Each additional 10 rooms

RIDE THE WAVE. FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL.



 [Facebook: @wca.nosara](#)

 [Instagram: @wca_nosara](#)

 [YouTube: @wca.nosara](#)

Program Goals

Overall our program strives to meet the following goals for a more sustainable Nosara (items in bold are required). You'll receive a printable checklist with detailed goals specific to each certification category when you apply.



ENERGY

- Track and reduce energy use
- Use energy saving appliances and light bulbs
- Use smart features to save energy
- Use solar energy
- Regularly maintain appliances



WASTE

- Up to date on payments to the Recycling Center**
- Separation of recyclables and organic waste**
- Proper containment and disposal of all waste**
- Use paper conservation measures
- Properly dispose of all trash
- No single-use plastics**



LEADERSHIP

- Pay minimum wage and provide benefits to employees
- Promote sustainability, organize and host "green" events
- Support local NGOs
- Promote health and happiness in the workplace



WATER

- Track and reduce water use
- Use low-flow or other water saving features
- Provide filtered water and no single-use water bottles
- Use eco-friendly cleaning products**
- Use recycled water for irrigation
- Use water conservation measures
- Have adequate wastewater treatment**



LAND USE

- Provide green space and wildlife corridors
- Insulate transformers and power lines**
- Limit light pollution
- Use natural, eco-friendly pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers

Important Definitions



LED - light emitting diode, high-efficiency lighting

T5/T8 - High-efficiency models of fluorescent or LED lighting

Eco-friendly products - cause less harm to human health and the environment when compared to other competing products and services. Look for products that are biodegradable, pH balanced, EcoLogo Certified, Green Seal Certified, etc.



Plastics PET1, HDPE2, LDPE4 - On the bottom of every plastic item is a number in the middle of a triangle that signifies what type of plastic it is. Polyethylene Terephthalate, High-Density Polyethylene, and Low-Density Polyethylene (PET1, HDPE2, and LDPE4), are the three types of plastic that can be recycled by the Nosara Recycling Center.

Plastics PVC3, PP5, PS6, 7 - On the bottom of every plastic item is a number in the middle of a triangle that signifies what type of plastic it is. Polyvinyl Chloride, Polypropylene, Polystyrene and other miscellaneous plastics (PVC3, PP5, PS6, and 7) are all plastics that cannot be recycled in Nosara and end up in a landfill, the environment or ocean.



Energy Star - an international symbol that identifies products as the top efficiency performer in their category. Energy Star is a government/industry partnership that makes it easy for businesses and consumers to save money and protect the environment.



Septic VS. Wastewater treatment system - Septic tanks use basic gravity to separate solid and liquid waste, whereas wastewater treatment systems use electric and mechanical components to introduce aerobic bacteria and/or aeration which break down the waste in the liquid. A sewage treatment plant is essentially a more sophisticated and advanced version of a septic tank that actually treats the wastewater, therefore producing a higher quality of effluent.

Grease Traps - A grease trap is a plumbing device designed to intercept most greases and solids before they enter a wastewater disposal system. The grease trap should be cleaned out when it reaches a quarter of its capacity.




Sourced Locally and Sustainably - Items that are sourced locally are from within the country, region, or district. The more locally sourced an item is, the lower environmental impact. Items that are sourced sustainably are from businesses aligned with the goals outlined in this certification program.



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Inspiring sustainable communities through research, community outreach, and immersive educational experiences.

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