

# HUB HIGHLIGHTS

July 2025 Issue 2



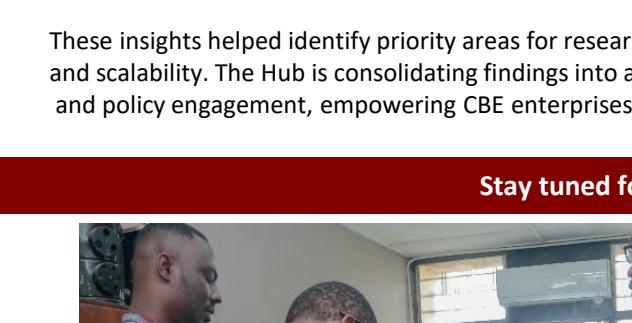
## DID YOU KNOW ?

That nearly 60% of Ghana's municipal solid waste is organic? Yet most of it still ends up in dumpsites & landfills, releasing methane and accelerating global warming. Existing solutions remain limited in scale, often unsustainable, and largely unknown.

The Circular Bioeconomy Innovation Hub is turning this challenge into opportunity. Catalyzing innovation, building capacity, attracting investment, and scaling sustainable solutions for resilient urban & peri urban food systems.

Welcome to Hub Highlights your update on our activities, insights, and impact. In this edition, we share milestones from our Living Labs, Schools & Youth Program, celebrate progress with partners, and preview upcoming trainings and the Circular Economy4Ghana Innovation Challenge.

### Meet the co-owners:



### Meet the scaling partners:



### Signed, Sealed and Scaling: Formalizing a Collective Commitment for Circular Bioeconomy Innovation

After 2 years of collaboration, the [International Water Management Institute \(IWM\)](#) and [15 partner institutions](#) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize the Circular Bioeconomy Innovation Hub in Ghana, a major milestone toward sustainable waste management and resource recovery in the region.

[Read More](#)

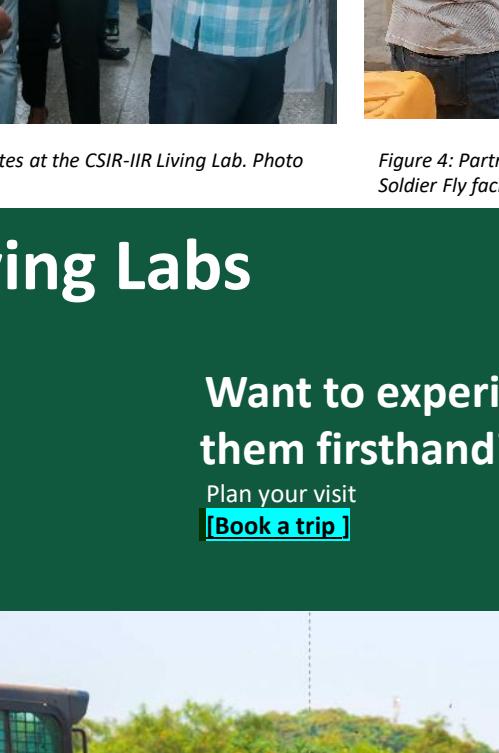


Figure 1: Hub co-owners sign the MoU and pose for a group photo following the signing ceremony. Photo Credit: Klinman Amish, IWM

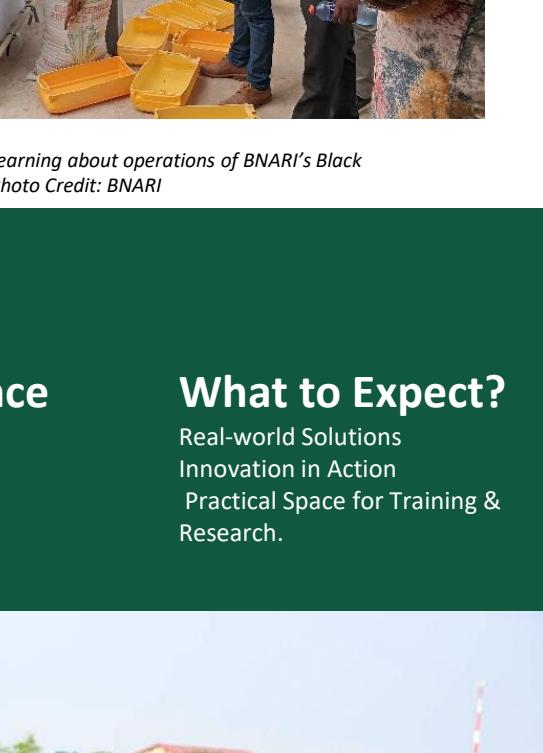


Figure 2: Training participants pose for a group picture. Photo Credit: C40 Cities Finance Facility

### Cultivating Skills for a Cleaner and Greener Accra: Insights from Training on Circular Economy

IWM, together with [C40 Cities Finance Facility](#) and the [Accra Metropolitan Assembly \(AMA\)](#), hosted a two-day hands-on training on circular bioeconomy practices. More than 50 participants, from AMA staff to national agencies and informal sector actors, gained skills in composting, business models development, and occupational health & safety.

[Read More](#)

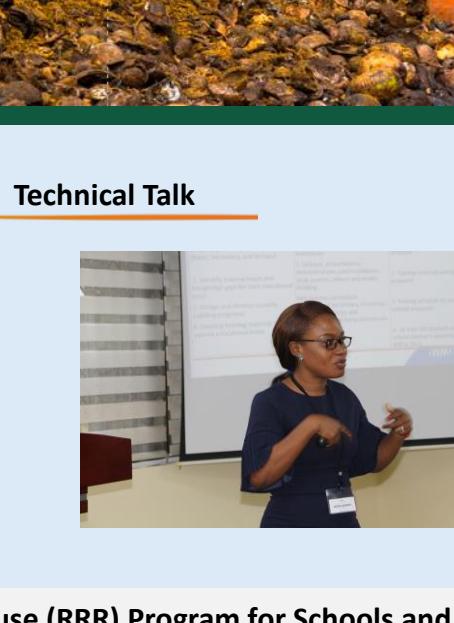


Figure 2: Training participants pose for a group picture. Photo Credit: C40 Cities Finance Facility

### Living Labs Driving Circular Innovation

Many Circular Bioeconomy(CBE) business models face several implementation challenges and scaling barriers. To de-risk innovation and accelerate sustainable uptake, the Hub launched a cross-sectoral working group to develop collaborative solutions and guide ecosystem-wide action. To further strengthen this effort, seven living Labs (i.e., real-world spaces for demonstration, training, applied research, and co-creation), have been designated to be the physical spaces for activities. To kickstart, the Hub led a peer-to-peer learning series across all seven Labs, where partners engaged directly with on-the-ground challenges and co-identified practical pathways for innovation and growth. Each visit brought together 16–28 participants from 14 partner institutions.

The process showcased progress while surfacing key barriers, including:

- Capacity & Funding Gaps – Limited resources and financing constraints
- Technology & Process Bottlenecks – Inefficient systems hindering scale
- Institutional & Policy Gaps – Weak alignment and support structures

These insights helped identify priority areas for research, training, and stakeholder engagement to strengthen impact and scalability. The Hub is consolidating findings into a roadmap for applied research, capacity building, advisory support, and policy engagement, empowering CBE enterprises to innovate, scale, and turn waste into opportunity.

Stay tuned for the launch of these programs!!!



Figure 3: Partners exploring carbonized briquettes at the CSIR-IIR Living Lab. Photo Credit: CSIR-IIR

Figure 4: Partners learning about operations of BNARI's Black Soldier Fly facility. Photo Credit: BNARI

## Discover our Living Labs

### Curious about our Living Labs?

Dive deeper and explore

[\[Read more\]](#)

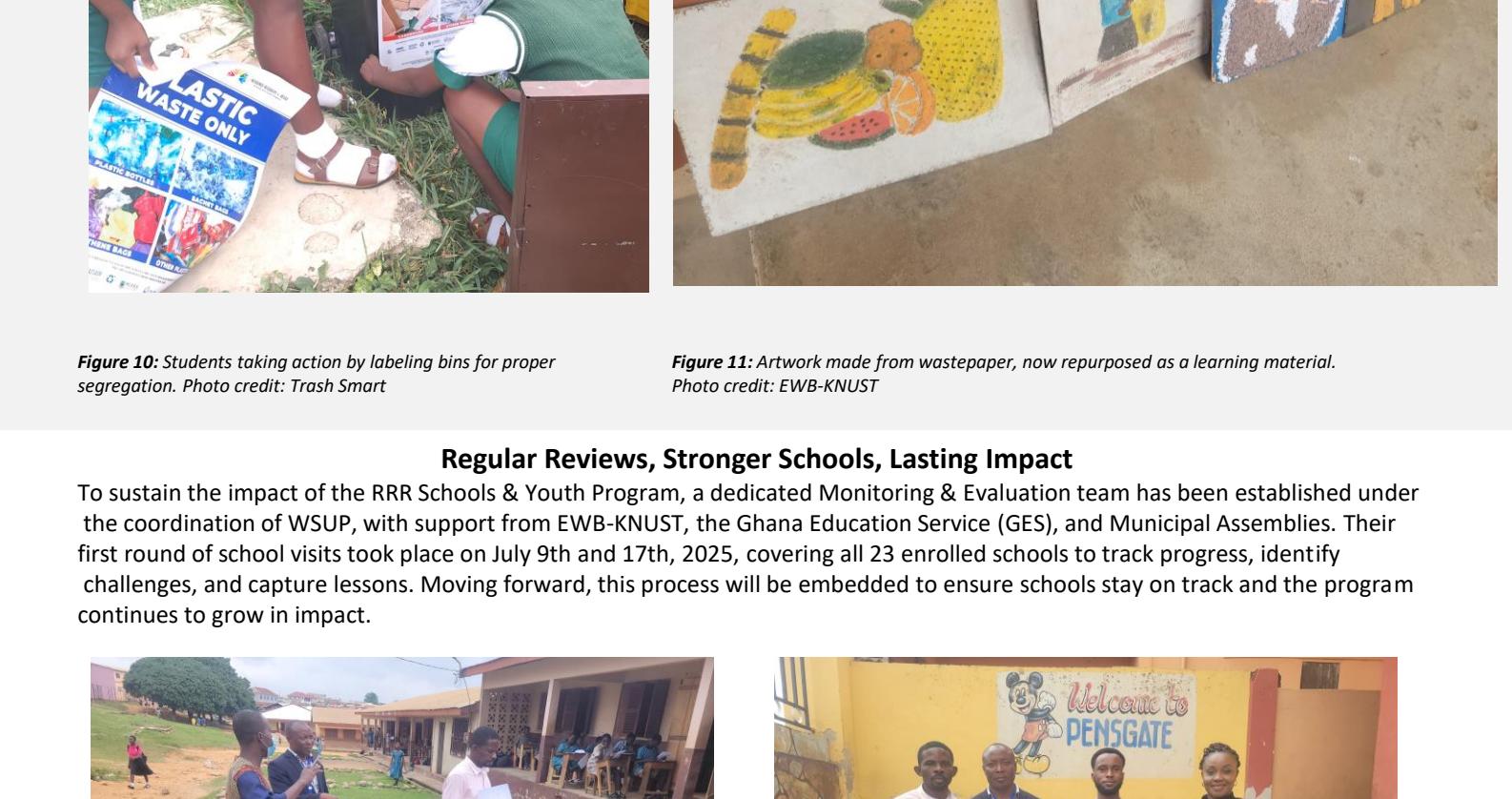
### Want to experience them firsthand?

Plan your visit

[\[Book a trip\]](#)

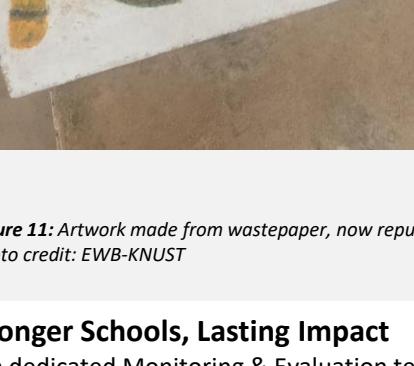
### What to Expect?

Real-world Solutions  
Innovation in Action  
Practical Space for Training & Research.



### Technical Talk

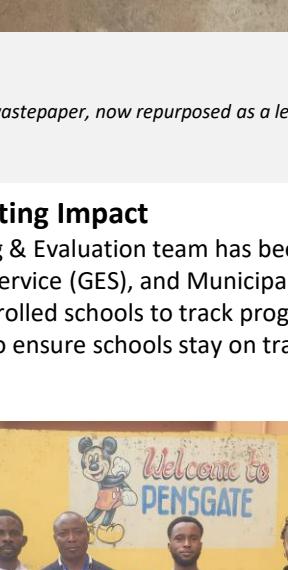
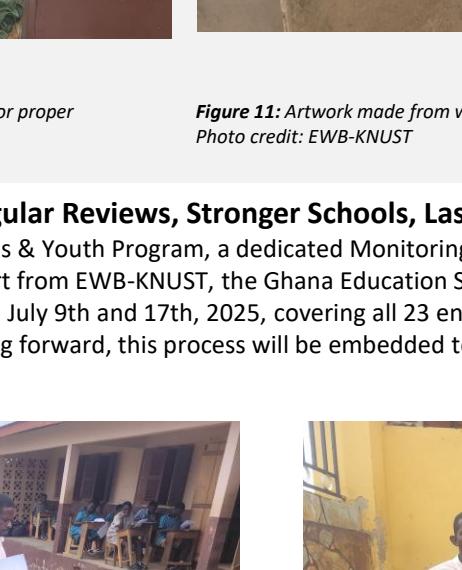
The Hub Coordinator delivered a presentation to the Ghana Institution of Engineers(GhIE), highlighting the Hub's role in advancing Ghana's Circular Bioeconomy agenda.



Missed the session?

[\[Watch it here\]](#)

### Resource Recovery & Reuse (RRR) Program for Schools and Youth



Implemented by IWM, [Water and Sanitation for the Urban Population \(WSSUP\)](#), and [Engineers Without Borders - KNUST](#), the program is equipping Ghana's youth with practical circular economy skills, turning waste into opportunity and innovation.

Explore the program highlights below



Figure 5: A teacher guides students in a compost pit. Photo credit: EWB-KNUST

Figure 6: A compost pit filled with source-separated organic materials. Photo credit: EW-B-KNUST

Figure 7: A composting box upcycled from a discarded school desk. Photo credit: EW-B-KNUST

Figure 8: The upcycled box in active use. Photo credit: EW-B-KNUST

We sincerely thank all partners, schools, and agencies whose collaboration and commitment continue to drive the success of our Circular Bioeconomy initiatives.

Contact the Innovation Hub coordinators at: [dg\\_apbefu@giar.org](mailto:dg_apbefu@giar.org)

Coming Soon

Hands-on Practical Field-Based Training

Compost Production

Black Soldier Fly Rearing

Fuel Briquette Production

Bio-gas Systems

Biochar Production

Waste-water Fed Aquaculture

Waste-to-energy

Waste-to-fertilizer

Waste-to-fuel

Waste-to-plastic

Waste-to-soil

Waste-to-textile

Waste-to-tiles

Waste-to-tiles