



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 \(IWMI\)](#) 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: Klinsman Amisshah, IWMI

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

[IWMI](#), 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

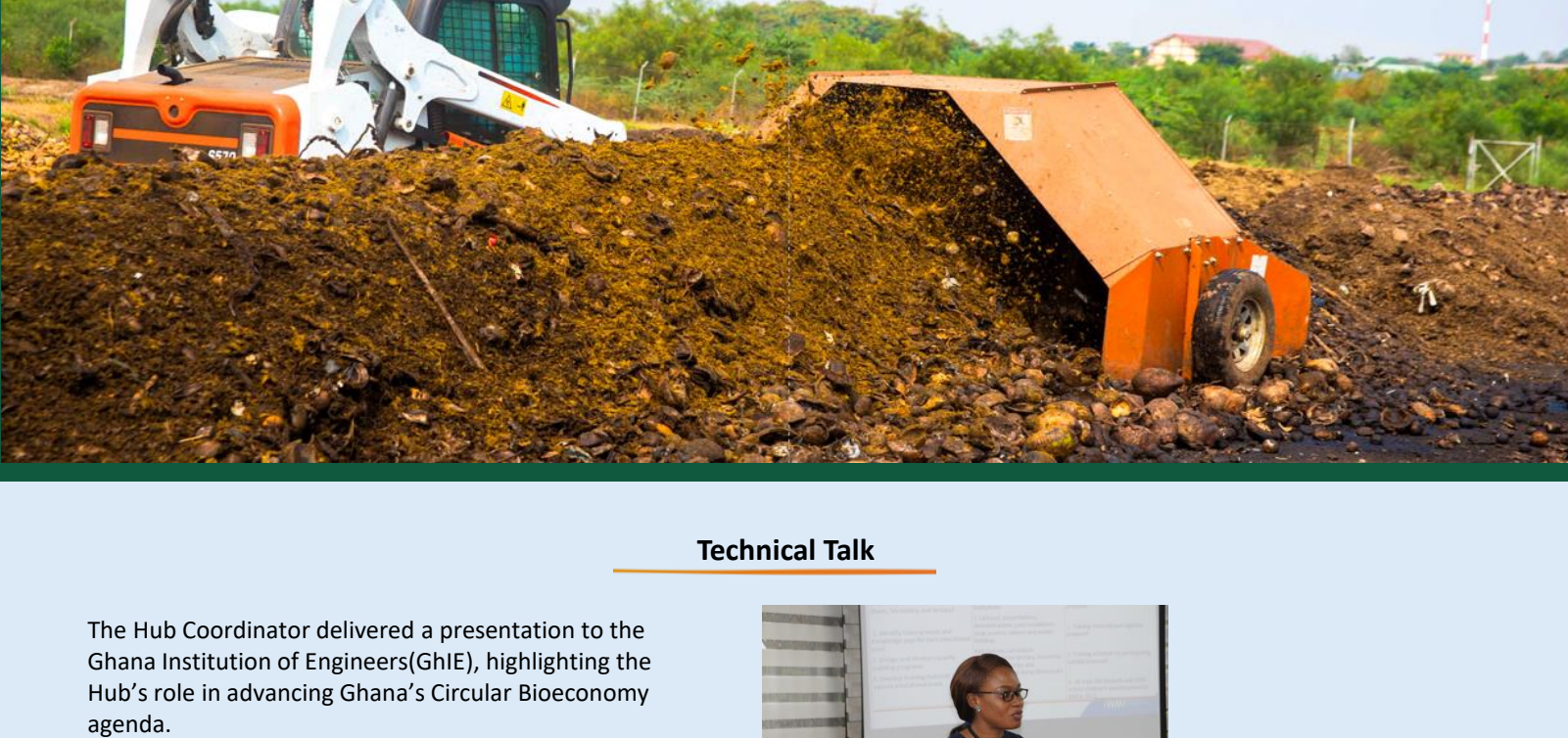
[\[Book a trip\]](#)

What to Expect?

Real-world Solutions

Innovation in Action

Practical Space for Training & Research.

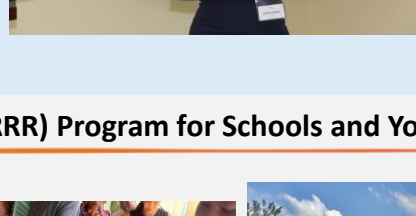


Technical Talk

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



Our Output So far:

Capacity Building

12,753 Students Reached
23 Schools Supported
23 RRR Clubs | 1,200+ Active Members
75 Tertiary Volunteers Mobilized
42 Teachers Trained

Knowledge & Skills

5 Core Learning Modules Delivered
1 Training Manual Developed

Resource Support

200+ Bins Donated for Waste Segregation

Explore the program highlights below

International Day of Zero Waste celebration

Marked on 30 March, the day highlights waste as a resource opportunity. The RRR Schools and Youth Program embodies this vision, with its progress featured in a special blog,

[Read more](#)



Circular Ideas in Motion

To sustain the momentum, teachers, students, and university volunteers have been equipped with new skills to lead innovation in their schools. This investment in capacity is already yielding inspiring results. Across 25 participating schools, impacting more than 10,000 students, teachers & volunteers have:

- Set up composting systems from source-separated organic waste.
- Transformed wastepaper into creative learning and art materials.
- Linked with private recyclers for the collection of segregated plastics.

These are more than school projects, they are building blocks of a circular mindset, empowering the next generation to turn waste into opportunity.

[See highlights below](#)



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



Figure 6: A compost pit filled with source-separated organics, marking the start of the pit composting process. Photo credit: EWB-KNUST



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



Figure 8: The upcycled box in active use for box composting. Photo credit: EWB-KNUST

RRR Schools Program Sparks Demand

St. Louis Senior High School(SHS), Ghana's most populated all-girls school with 5,590 students has officially joined the RRR Schools & Youth Program after applying. This marks the first SHS to be enrolled in the program. The enrollment process included:

- A baseline assessment to understand existing waste challenges.
- Donation of 46 bins to complement existing ones
- Relabeling of bins for proper segregation.
- Sensitization of the entire school community, including teachers, on Circular Bioeconomy concepts.
- Formation of a school club with agreed meeting days to sustain learning and action.

This milestone strengthens youth engagement in CBE and sets a strong precedent for other schools to follow.



Figure 9: Boosting waste segregation with bin donations to St. Louis SHS. Photo credit: Trash Smart



Figure 10: Students taking action by labeling bins for proper segregation. Photo credit: Trash Smart

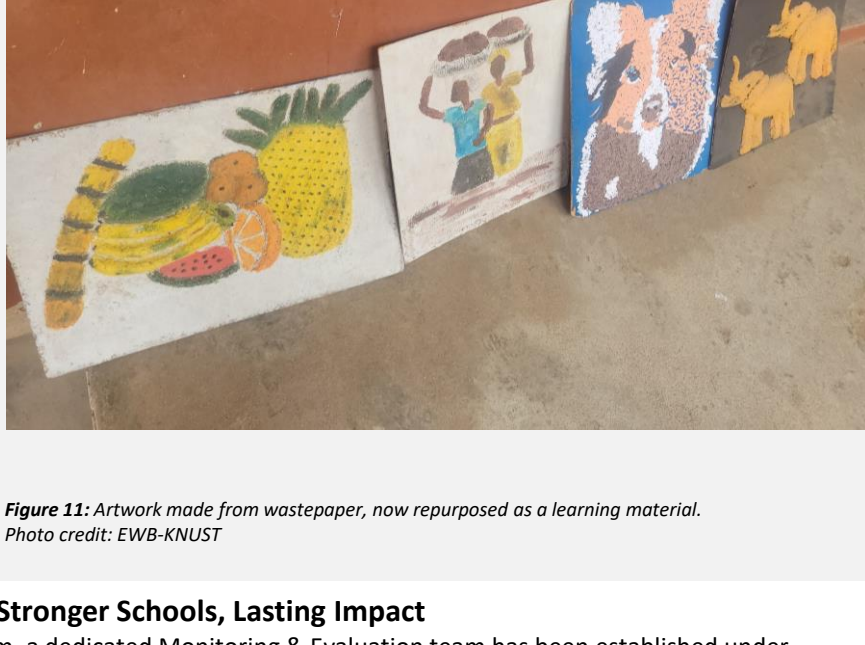


Figure 11: Artwork made from wastepaper, now repurposed as a learning material. Photo credit: EWB-KNUST

Regular Reviews, Stronger Schools, Lasting Impact

To sustain the impact of the RRR Schools & Youth Program, a dedicated Monitoring & Evaluation team has been established under the coordination of WSUP, with support from EWB-KNUST, the Ghana Education Service (GES), and Municipal Assemblies. Their first round of school visits took place on July 9th and 17th, 2025, covering all 23 enrolled schools to track progress, identify challenges, and capture lessons. Moving forward, this process will be embedded to ensure schools stay on track and the program continues to grow in impact.



Figure 12: A teacher shares insights with the assessment team. Photo credit: EWB-KNUST

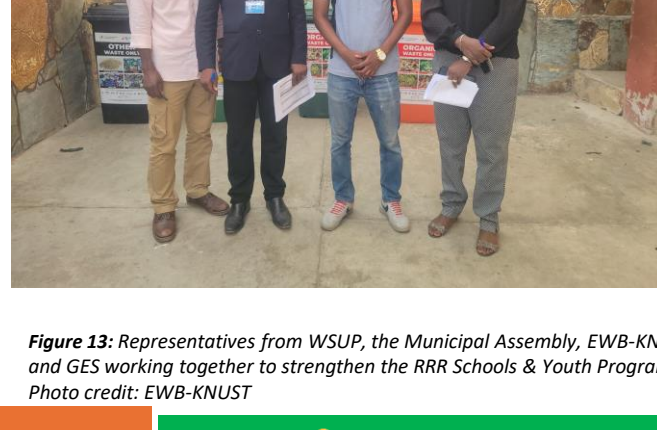


Figure 13: Representatives from WSUP, the Municipal Assembly, EWB-KNUST, and GES working together to strengthen the RRR Schools & Youth Program. Photo credit: EWB-KNUST

Coming Soon

Practical Field-Based Training

Hands-on skills to turn waste into resources and drive Ghana's Circular Bioeconomy.

Compost Production

Black Soldier Fly Rearing

Fuel Briquette Production

Biogas Systems

Biochar Production

Wastewater-Fed Aquaculture

CircularEconomy4Ghana Innovation Challenge



Curious about the Hub?

Learn more here:

<https://on.cgiar.org/3B9XEdG>

Stay in the loop!

Sign up for our newsletter to receive the latest insights, research, and trends in the circular bioeconomy.

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

For further enquiries

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