**Innovative Solutions for Waste Management Challenge (ISWMC)**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS - SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS**

**A: SUMMARY INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT AND THE INITIATIVE**

Sustainable and integrated waste management remains a policy priority for many African countries including Ghana. While an increase in waste poses challenges related to waste management, it is estimated that the value of municipal solid waste generated in Africa is about US $8 billion annually and opportunities to develop waste as a resource remain largely unexplored. Notwithstanding the challenges, waste management provides a pathway to transition to a circular economy with the associated social, economic and environmental benefits. The concept of circular economy represents an economic model that moves from the current linear model that is characterised by extraction, production, distribution, consumption and waste disposal to a model where products and materials are recycled, repaired, refurbished or re-used such that a by-product or waste in one process is an input in another economic process. The key characteristics of a circular economy include less material input and natural resource use, increased share of renewable energy and recyclable resources, the value of products, components and materials is retained if possible, and emissions and material losses are minimized.

To sustain and strengthen the work done by UNDP through the ‘Waste Recovery Platform[[1]](#footnote-1)’, UNDP with funding from the Coca-Cola Foundation (TCCF), The “Plastic Waste Recovery for a Circular Green Economy” is organising an Integrated Waste Management Fair (IWMF). The fair will provide the opportunity to connect the different strands of work on waste management as well as different stakeholders to enable cross-fertilization of solutions, partnerships and resources to support businesses, government and the citizenry to transition to a green and circular economy. Thus, the rationale for IWMF is to work with relevant government partners including development partners, the private sector, academia, media and other relevant institutions and stakeholders to institute an annual event for networking, learning lessons from interventions in integrated waste management and designing ways of further improvement to optimize the impacts. Recommendations from the IWMF will feed into policy decision-making for government and business operation modalities for the private sector, especially financial institutions.

One of the elements of the fair is the Innovative Solutions for Waste Management Challenge (ISWMC). The objective of this challenge is to promote awareness among the general populace on the challenges of waste, solutions for integrated waste management, segregation at source especially at the household level and how individuals, institutions, corporations, government and civil society can be involved in the solutions for waste management. The ISWMC is a competition for second-cycle schools. We encourage that at least ten (10) Schools participate from each region. Schools that apply to the challenge will have the opportunity to design and develop innovative solutions for waste management that can easily be championed and implemented by their schools. Given the opportunity, young people can play an active role in dealing with the increasing volume of waste in the country. As evolving future leaders, it is important to engage them in waste management to raise awareness and equip them to safeguard the environment. Engaging the youth in waste management will positively impact their attitudes and behaviours. In this way, they can adopt environmentally friendly practices such as promoting recycling in their schools, institutions, and homes. They will also be able to influence other members of society like their parents, friends, and family to create a more sustainable environment. The winning schools will receive cash prizes worth the value of the intervention, but not more than Four Thousand Dollars ($4,000) to enable them to implement their project ideas. Up to three (3) schools will be selected as winners for the challenge.

**Objectives**

* To promote awareness among the general populace, particularly the youth on the challenges of waste management
* To encourage hands-on solutions for integrated waste management
* To identify and strengthen the role that individuals, institutions, especially schools can play in providing solutions for waste management.

**This call for Full Proposals is focused entirely on actions targeted at solving an existing waste management challenge in a specific area/community or region targeting second life stage/recovery and re-use of “waste”.**

**B: THE APPLICATION PROCESS (SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS)**

The Full Proposal is the first step of the application process to the “Innovative Solutions for Waste Management Challenge” (ISWMC). The process of receiving an award from UNDP under the framework of the ISWMC is presented below:

1. **Full proposal:** at the first part of the competition process, applicants are requested to download the proposal application form from the [UNDP website](https://www.gh.undp.org/content/ghana/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/_waste_-recovery-innovation-challenge--2nd-edition---call-for-co.html) and submit the completed application form by the deadline stated on the form and the guidelines. Thus, schools will be expected to submit a proposal on their project idea. The proposal will highlight how the project will be implemented in terms of activities and proposed timelines; how the project will address the waste management challenge; how it will impact on Ghanaian society. Only Forms that are fully completed will be assessed by an evaluation panel made up of UNDP officers (majority) and other experts. Proposals assessed with a minimum score of 70 out of 100 will pass to the next stage.

UNDP will assess the Full Proposal using these criteria:

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| **CRITERIA FOR REVIEW** | **SCORE** |
| The specific “waste” related challenge that the project will focus on and how it will be addressed | 10 points |
| Objectives of the project and expected impact | 20 points |
| Activities and approach of the project | 15 points |
| The project’s innovation | 25 points |
| Why you are seeking ISWMC Support for your Project | 5 points |
| Diagrammatic presentation of the concept | 15 points |
| Estimated project budget | 10 points |

1. **Project Presentation:** if your proposal is successful, you will be invited to present key highlights of your proposal at the Integrated Waste Management Fair. A team of experts from relevant government agencies and educational institutions, and the private sector will provide further inputs for improving the proposals. UNDP and GES will conduct a due diligence assessment of schools under consideration before any assistance is provided.
2. **Contract:** A contract will be signed between UNDP and the selected schools.

**C: THE CHALLENGE**

*UNDP, under the auspices of the “Plastic Waste Recovery for a Circular Green Economy in Ghana” project with funding from the Coca-Cola Foundation (TCCF) is launching the Innovative Solutions for Waste Management Challenge (ISWMC). The aim is to provide financial support to selected Senior High Schools in the country, to develop innovative solutions for waste management that can easily be championed and implemented by their schools. We are seeking to provide financial support to projects that will lead to/contribute to bringing a lasting solution to an existing waste management challenge in a specific area/community or region targeting second life stage/recovery and re-use of “waste”. Special consideration will be given to projects that contribute to COVID-19 response and recovery.*

**D: ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS**

Applications must be submitted by Head teachers of Senior High Schools

Applicants must meet all the following criteria for your application to be considered:

* The total grant funds requested must not be more than **US$ 4,000.**
* The funding request is for a specific, new and innovative idea/project that addresses the waste management challenge. The ISWMC/UNDP views innovation in its broadest sense including: i) a new approach, product, idea or service that has not been tested anywhere; ii) an approach, product, idea or service that is new to Ghana; or iii) an approach, product, idea or service that has not been applied to waste recovery and management in Ghana but presents the best possible opportunity to provide lasting solutions.
* Applicants must demonstrate that the project could not go ahead without ISWMC/UNDP funding or that, if it would go ahead anyway, it would be at a much-reduced pace or scale.
* The idea must be implemented in Ghana by the students.
* The proposal should be submitted by the head teacher, but the project/idea must be developed and implemented by students with the guidance of a teacher.

**E: SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSALS**

Make sure you use the **official template** provided **.**

As the first stage of the competition is judged solely on the content of this form, it is critical that applications are submitted within the set deadline. The deadline for submission of Full Proposals is on **7 July 2021** at **5.00 pm** Ghana time.

Full Proposals should be delivered electronically to: [competition.gh@undp.org](mailto:competition.gh@undp.org)

Applications that fail to meet the deadline will not be assessed by the panel.

All enquiries should be directed to Catherine Adodoadji-Dogbe at [catherine.adodoadji-dogbe@undp.org](mailto:catherine.adodoadji-dogbe@undp.org)

**F: TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR WRIC**

In keeping with UNDP's goals to achieve the broadest positive impact for all, the intellectual property rights of these selected innovations remain with UNDP and the innovations will be made public on open exchanges. Innovators and developers will receive recognition for their efforts and appropriate licenses will be issued to them. UNDP is taking this approach to ensure that:

* Innovations that are of significant interest and benefit to the public become “public goods or services” and may be made accessible
* There will be no monopoly control over the solution; and
* The solution will not be priced beyond beneficiaries’ ability to pay for it.

If the innovative ideas selected by UNDP are adopted and replicated by UNDP or any of UNDP’s partners in various UNDP-supported programmes or projects, the sources of the innovative ideas must not and cannot expect to be the sole source of all business activities arising from such adoption of the innovation. Where necessary, and where marketable technologies are involved, UNDP may provide a perpetual license to the source of the innovative idea, but UNDP shall not be precluded from granting the same license to other entities.

1. The Waste Recovery Platform facilitated by UNDP connects key stakeholders in the waste management value chain to promote waste recovery in Ghana. To learn more about the Platform, visit <https://www.gh.undp.org/content/ghana/en/home/projects/waste_initiative.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)