**‘WASTE’ RECOVERY INNOVATION CHALLENGE**

**1st EDITION**

**CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

**A: SUMMARY INFORMATION ABOUT THE INITIATIVE**

As with many urbanizing economies, Ghana's municipalities face significant challenges with solid waste management. There is a need for a new way to think about the issue of waste – not just from a management point of view but from the perspective of re-use at multiple levels as existing approaches are nowhere near sufficient to address the scale of the challenge, and because waste recovery and reuse offers various benefits. This involves thinking about wastes as *Materials in Transition*, which is only possible when there exists an operating connection between the waste generator and the second-life user.

Under-utilized and un-managed waste materials pose serious risk to the environment and human health, with the greatest negative impact felt by the most vulnerable in society. Alternatively, when connections – pathways and avenues – are created and known, waste materials can journey from where they are not needed, to where there is a need, creating economies and livelihoods. Waste materials can be used in replacement for new materials, preserving our natural resources and slowing climate change. The activity of assisting waste on its journey to a valuable resource can create millions of good jobs across society, especially for marginalized citizens.

It is against this background that UNDP is facilitating the creation of a digitally enabled ‘Waste’ Recovery Platform to connect key stakeholders with data and technological solutions for resource recovery. This is expected to: facilitate more cost-effective and transparent access to ready data for evidenced-based planning by policy makers on sanitation management; enhance access to knowledge on best available technologies on waste valorization; make it easier to find/link to solution providers and off-takers; stimulate further research and innovation on waste valorization in relation to emerging demand and options; and build capacity of key personnel (local government, private sector, NGOs and Academia) to enhance sanitation management particularly at the decentralized level.

In this context, UNDP has launched the first edition of the ***‘Waste’ Recovery Innovation Challenge (WRIC)*** to provide about 8 projects with technical and financial support to promote and/or test innovative solutions for waste recovery or waste reduction/avoidance. It is expected that the ‘Waste’ Recovery Platform, once fully established and operationalized, will lead subsequent editions of the competition.

The projects supported during this first edition will fall under **three categories**:

1. **Private sector/businesses**: providing a sustainable solution to an existing waste management challenge in a specific area; demonstrating the potential to be bankable and scalable; having the potential to create employment.
2. **Research:** investigating innovative ways and scientific break-throughs in waste recovery, results of which can be turned into bankable and scalable business proposal.
3. **Advocacy/awareness creation**: promoting the concept of resource recovery and its opportunities in Ghana in a circular economy context.

**This call for full proposals only refers to the second category (RESEARCH).**

**B: THE APPLICATION PROCESS (RESEARCH)**

The Full Proposal is the first step of the application process for research projects under the ‘Waste’ Recovery Innovation Challenge (WRIC). The process of receiving an award from UNDP under the framework of the WRIC is presented below:

1. **Full Proposal:** At this stage of the competition process, applicants are requested to download the *Full Proposal Application Form* from the UNDP website [<https://bit.ly/2FuusNq>] and submit the completed application form by the deadline stated on the form and the guidelines. This proposal is expected to, amongst other things, highlight in much greater detail: how the project will be implemented in terms of activities and proposed timelines; how the project will address the challenge set; how will it impact on the poorer segments of the Ghanaian society; and provide a detailed financing plan. UNDP will conduct a preliminary review of the full proposals using this criterion:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CRITERIA FOR PRELIMINARY REVIEW** | **SCORE** |
| Forms fully completed | Pass/Fail |
| The applicant meets the eligibility criteria | Pass/Fail |

Only applications that are awarded ‘Pass’ in the criteria above will be fully assessed by an evaluation panel made of UNDP officers (majority) and other experts. The criteria for the full evaluation are defined in the application form. Only proposals that make the top 5 of the full evaluation will be contacted for the final stage of the selection process.

1. **Pitching:** If your proposal is successfully selected at this stage, you will be invited to physically present key highlights of your proposal at a pitching encounter, where a team of experts will finally select the winning proposals. As part of the process to select successful applications, UNDP will conduct a due diligence assessment of applicants under consideration.
2. **Contract:** A contract will be signed by UNDP and the applicant.

**C: THE CHALLENGE**

The ‘Waste’ Resource Innovation Challenge will award grants to:

*Research projects that will lead to the promotion and/or test of innovative solutions for the recovery of waste into other essential products/services, and/or waste reduction or avoidance. The research project should as part of its outcomes lead to an innovation or the creation of a sustainable business that has the possibility of making profit in the short, medium and long term; create employment and other income generation opportunities especially for youth, women and vulnerable people; and should lead to/contribute to bringing a lasting solution to a waste management challenge in a specific area/community or region.*

**D: ELIGILIBITY OF APPLICANTS**

Proposals must be submitted by applicants from research-focused and/or academic institutions, as well as individual researchers.

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

* The total grant funds requested must not be more than US$ 40,000.
* Only one proposal can be submitted by an institution/individual.
* The funding request is for a specific, catalytic research project that addresses the challenge enumerated above. The WRIC/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 the waste management sector in Ghana but presents the best possible opportunity to provide lasting solutions.
* Applicants must demonstrate that the project could not go ahead without WRIC/UNDP funding or that, if it would go ahead anyway, it would be at a much-reduced pace or scale.
* Applicants may partner with other organizations, including NGOs and Community organizations. However, it is a condition that the lead applicant and implementer of the research project must be from research and academia.
* The idea must be implemented in Ghana by a researcher or research/academic body operating in Ghana.
* A consortium may be formed, but the lead applicant is responsible for the project/idea and must warrant that the permission of the other members has been obtained.

**E: SUBMITTING YOUR FULL PROPOSALS**

Make sure you use the [**official template**](https://bit.ly/2SGoRwc) provided (attached separately).

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 deadline set. The deadline for submission of Full Proposal is on 11 April 2019 at 5.00 pm Ghana time.

Full Proposals should be delivered electronically to: [competition.gh@undp.org](mailto:competition.gh@undp.org) with the subject line ‘RESEARCH’.

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

All enquiries should be directed to Joel Ayim Darkwah at [joel.darkwah@undp.org](mailto:joel.darkwah@undp.org)

All questions and answers will be posted on the competition webpage [<https://bit.ly/2FuusNq>]

**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 actually 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 perpetual license to the source of the innovative idea, but UNDP shall not be precluded from granting the same license to other entities.