



Plastic & Circularity in Ghana: Inclusive Solutions for Action and Equity

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About Environment360

- Founded in 2014, woman led social enterprise (formerly an NGO)
- Mission: empower communities for inclusive circular economies
- Programs in education, recycling, entrepreneurship
- 10-year progressive history in supporting development of circular economy
- 1st Facility in West Africa to Obtain Verra Plastic Verification



2014

Founded



2015

Community
Recycling



2016

City Recycling
Coordinator



2017

Sorting Center



2019

GIZ
Kumasi/Accra

E360 circular
InnovationHub

2021

Circular
Innovation
Hub

CONTEXT: WHY CIRCULAR ECONOMY MATTERS

1.1M

tons of plastic waste
annually in Ghana



only **5%**
recycled



innovation



jobs



climate
resilience

1

327 MT of Plastic Collected

and sold to recyclers in the past two years. Supporting increased livelihoods and better wages for waste pickers in Tema New Town.



2.0 Key Successes PICK-IT

2

70% of technical trainees are women

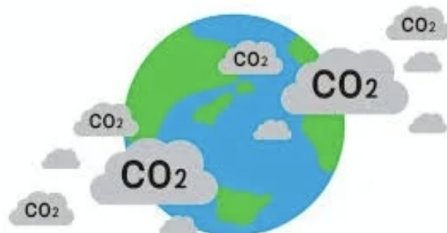
Women trainees learned to use a flaker to shred plastic and also used a manual injection machine to learn how to make beads from recycled plastic



3

950 CO2 offset

The Pick-It Sorting Facility has successfully offset 950 metric tons of carbon dioxide for a greener, cooler earth.



4

30 Waste Picker Leaders Trained

30 waste picker leaders received business and capacity training to support digital literacy, leadership and teamwork



5

Verra Registration

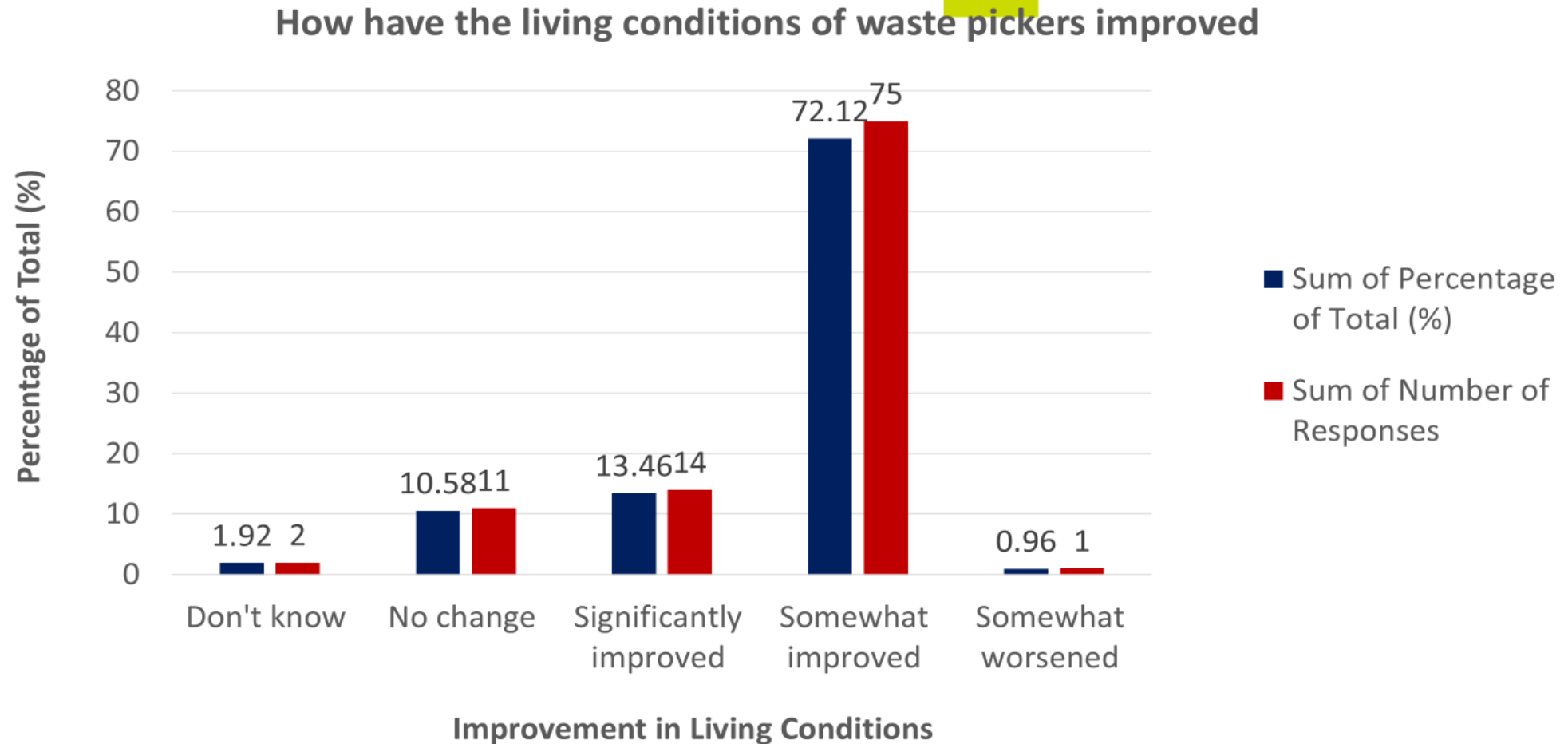
Pick-It is a registered Verra Project allowing the facility to offer fair purchasing prices to waste pickers

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 Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action
 Federal Foreign Office
 IKI INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE
on the basis of a decision by the German Bundestag

How have the living conditions of waste pickers improved

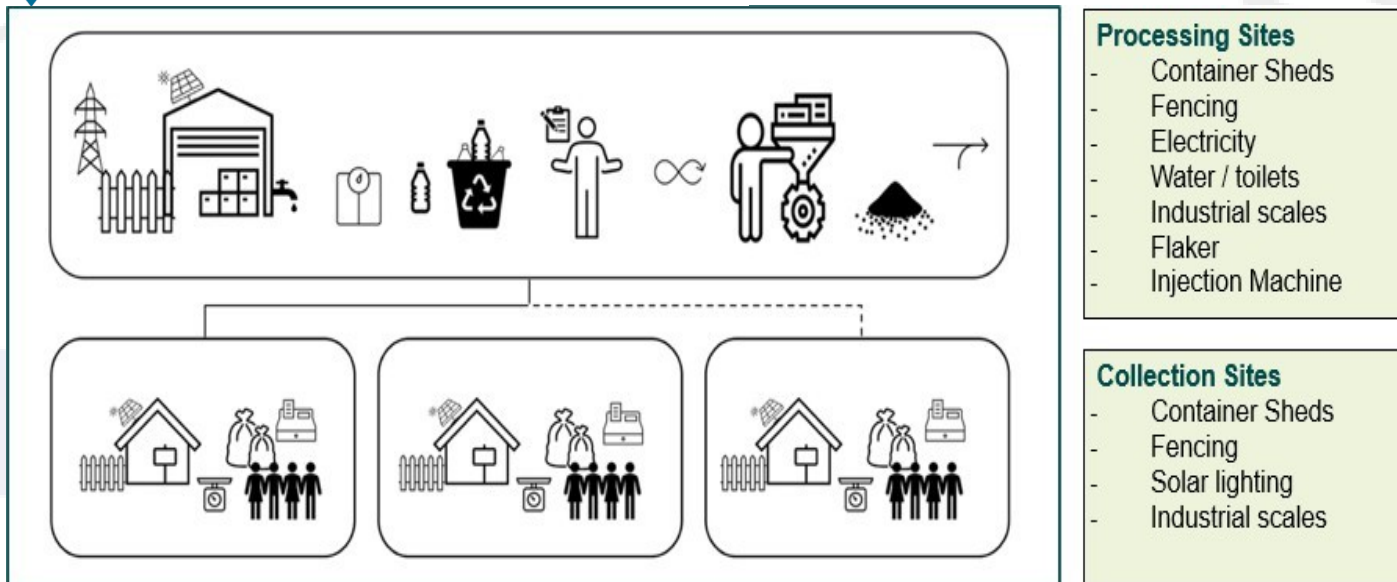


Verra Plastic Credits Certification

- Ghana's first Verra-certified plastic credits project
- Proof of transparent recovery & recycling
- Expands financing options for waste systems

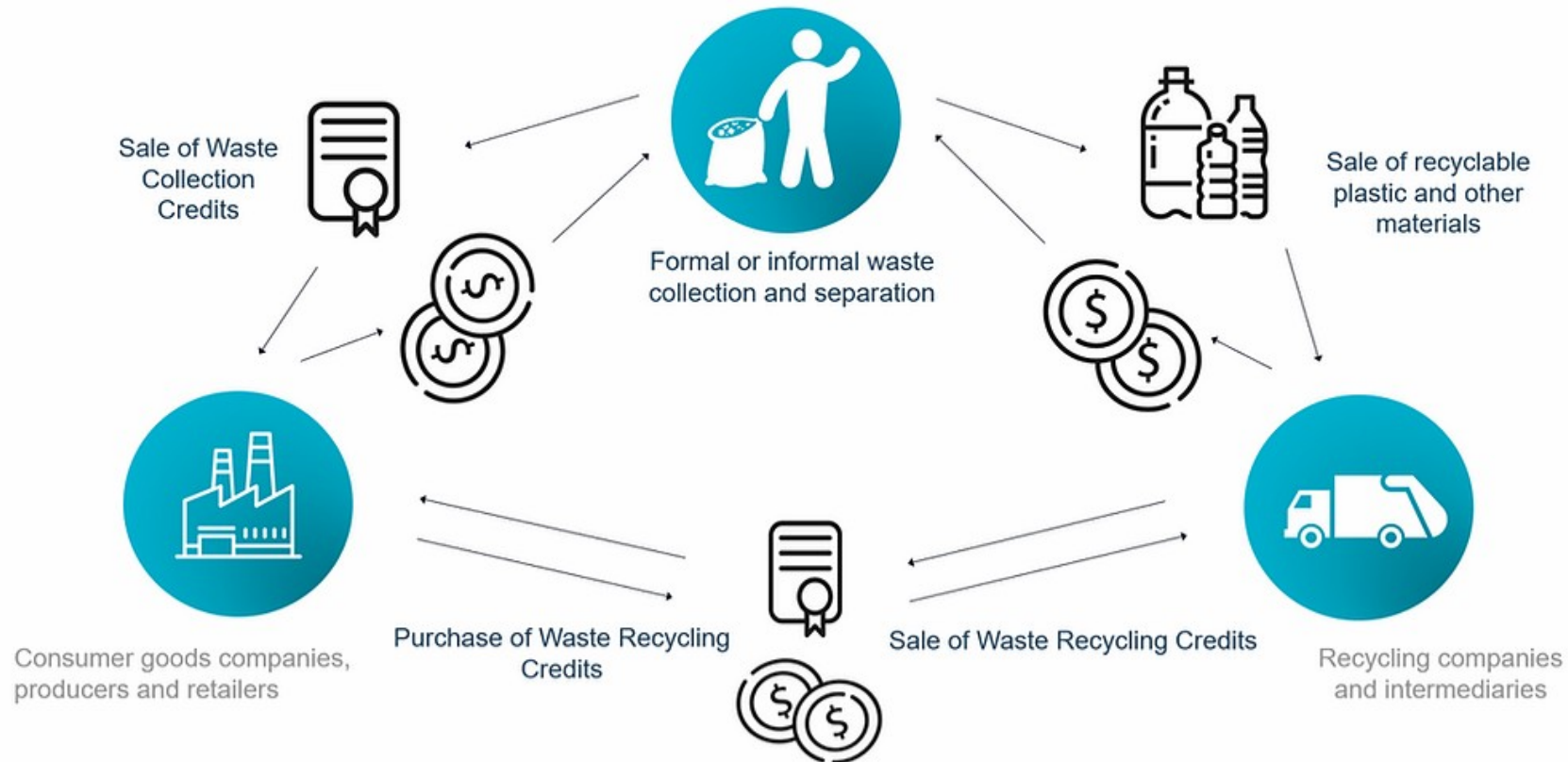


Plastic Waste Reduction Standard



Plastic Credits Market Still Growing

- • Low global demand for plastic credits
- • High data and verification requirements
- • Costly to



Key Opportunities Scaling Initiatives

- Decentralizing Recycling:
 - Concentration of recycling opportunities only available in large cities
 - cost intensive
 - Low-Tech
- Gender Responsive Training
 - Need for gender responsive facilities that support working mothers
 - Increase of knowledge technical skills
- Practical Technical Skills
 - Skills that can be used immediately for entrepreneurship
 - Focused on emerging trends
- Plastic Credits
 - Costly to maintain
 - And intensive reporting to claim credits



Areas that Need to Be Addressed



No Mandatory national Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system



Data barriers/
Unused Research

Data Barriers :

- Absence of standardized data collection and reporting systems across institutions.
- Weak data-sharing culture among public agencies, private sector, and research institutions.



Lack of inclusion:

- Women
- Youth



Limited of waste management education for children

- No early exposure to circular economy concepts

Ghana's Fight on Plastic Pollution

2018

- Plastic Waste Policy Stakeholder Talks Initiated

2019

- Ghana joins Global Plastic Action Partnership

2020

- Ghana Plastic Action Partnership

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- Youth
- Informal Sector

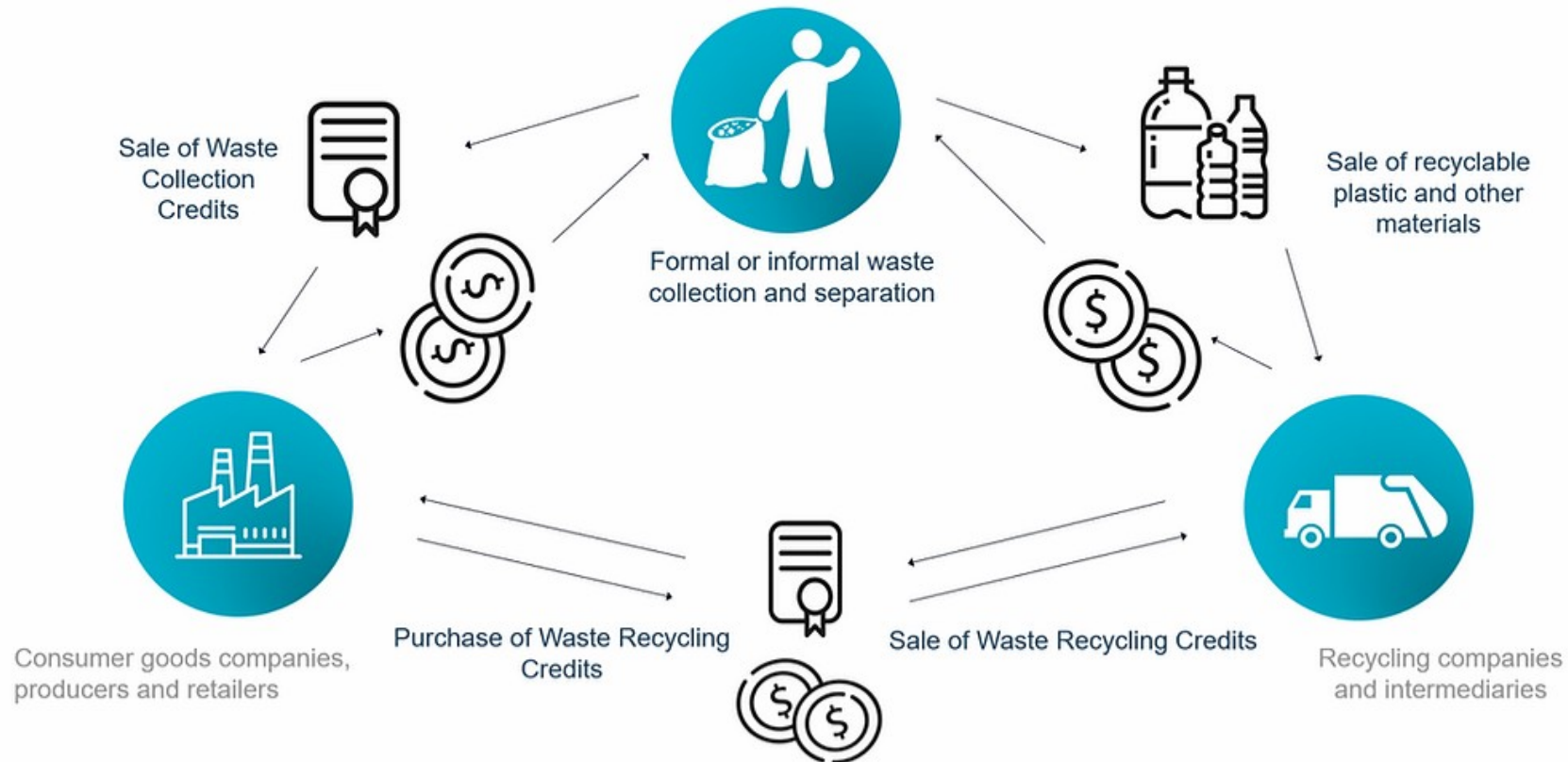


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Green Complex

- Partnered with LCOY to offer Green skills training for youth

Circular Innovation Hub

- Technical support & prototyping lab to open source data and technology

Pick It

- Sanitation for service support increased segregation at source for improved working conditions for informal sector workers

Reducing versus Recycling

Reducing Waste

- Immediate Impact on Waste Generated
- Personal Power vs Government Reliance
- Inexpensive/Attracts a one time cost

Recycling Waste

- Adequate Separation and Low Contamination Rate Needed
- Reliant on a Third Party
- Costly
- Not Everything Can be Recycled

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Collaborative Action



**Circular
Bioeconomy
Innovation
Hub**

- **IWMI Circular BioEconomy Hub:**
Deeper collaboration among stakeholders to scale up existing waste valorization activities and applied research



- **University of Environment and Sustainable Development-Somanya:**

To help understand emerging opportunities for green entrepreneurs

Reasons for Greater Personal Responsibility



- Usage of Plastic Waste is a Personal Decision- in early 2000 plastic generated was 40 times more in a single decade than the past 40 years
- Microplastics have been found everywhere from humans, to food, and soil and water
- Producers only create what's in demand- choosing alternative materials forces change
- Government moves slow

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Recommendations

- Decentralization: Increased focus on decentralizing recycling to increase the number of green entrepreneurs, technology, and innovations that can be used practically in communities
- Gender Responsive Training Centers: Women entrepreneurs dominate Africa. Additional considerations and support need to be offered to actualize their potential fully
- Applied Data: Use existing data, research, and lessons to guide projects and interventions, versus replication and new actions
- Greater Eco-System Support: There should be a clear pathway to support green entrepreneurs in scaling technology and initiatives, including clear financing and tax structures

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Contact US



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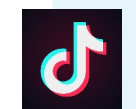
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