

UNDP PARTNERS ENERGY COMMISSION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO PROMOTE ENERGY AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY IN MMDA AND MSMEs INCLUDING HOTELS

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Energy Commission (EC), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Ghana launched a series of activities in 2022 to promote energy and resource efficiency in micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and selected metropolitan, municipal, and district assemblies (MMDAs) in six regions in Ghana. These activities included the hiring of a consultant to conduct energy and resource audits in selected MSMEs, such as hotels, and the organization of a training workshop on energy and resource management in six (6) selected regional capitals.

A consulting firm BS Solutions hired by the UNDP, conducted a walk-through energy and resource audits in 10 hotels and 5 manufacturing MSMEs in Kumasi, Sefwi Wiawso, Sagnerigu, Kasena Nankana West, Ketu South, and Jomoro. The primary purpose of the audit was to establish an energy and resource use baseline, identify inefficiencies in energy and resource utilization, and recommend ways to improve energy and resource efficiency to lower operational costs and boost revenue. The findings of the audit indicated that an entity could achieve 30% decrease in Energy and Resource use if all recommendations were implemented.

The energy and resource management training involved personnel from selected MSMEs, including hotels and MMDAs from the Western, Volta, Ashanti, Western North, Northern, and Upper East regions. The training focused on the fundamentals of energy, energy and resource management, regulated appliance standards and labelling, energy conservation, the process of implementing energy and resource efficiency in the workplace, and the use of intelligent tools to make energy and resource use decisions and the implementation of an effective waste management system to eliminate operational inefficiencies. In addition, a representative of BS Solutions shared preliminary audit results from the field, providing training participants with practical benefits associated with conducting walk-through energy and resource audits. Each training participant received a 32-page guide on energy efficiency and conservation, as well as three additional flyers on how to use electricity wisely, download the mobile app for regulated appliances, and standards and labelling.

These establishments (MSMEs including Hotels) faced numerous setbacks during the COVID-19 pandemic, including significant profit losses due to decreased sales, value chain disruption, and

indebtedness. Hence To avoid succumbing to these risks, fully recover from the pandemic, and contribute sustainably to inclusive economic development, firm resilience is critical. Speaking at the kick-off training workshop in Takoradi, Mr. Stephen Kansuk the Head of Environment and Climate at the UNDP, affirmed that the training on energy and resource efficiency is part of the UNDP's inclusive integrated MSMEs support programme for six districts, which aims to aid the Ghanaian government's Covid-19 recovery efforts. The programme, which builds on previous interventions for MSMEs in the districts, offers assistance in three distinct areas. These included business development services, such as good corporate governance, mentorship, access to finance, increased citizen engagement to prevent radicalization, and capacity enhancement for energy and resource efficiency. He also highlighted that the integrated MSMEs assistance programme is anticipated to facilitate skill upgrading, encourage innovation, and promote targeted investments to generate decent employment, and income. This is to unleash the potential of women- and youth-led MSMEs to drive a sustained, greener, and more inclusive economic recovery.

The Executive Secretary of the Energy Commission, Ing. Oscar Amonoo-Neizer, urged participants to take advantage of the training to adopt best practices with energy and resource use to conduct walk-through energy and resource audits regularly to reduce costs, increase revenue generation, and build capacity to withstand future challenges. He indicated that hotels for example spend approximately 60 -70 percent of their operating costs on energy and resources and hence needed assistance in adopting best practices regarding energy and resource use to reduce costs and increase revenue.

A total of 500 participants from the identified sectors were trained. Tables 1, 2 and 3 show demographic data, sectoral distribution of training personnel and the number of workers employed in the MSMEs respectively.

Among the 334 identified MSMEs including hotels, 40.32% of the entity heads were women and 59.68% were men. Together, these entities (MSMEs including hotels) have a total of 4,957 people in employment out of which 2,695 representing 54.37% were women, 2,262 representing 45.63% were men and 3,949 representing 79.67% out of 4,957 employees were youths.

Table 1: Demographic Information on Prospective Energy and Resource Managers

Demographic Factor		Responses (%)	Demographic Factor		Responses (%)
Gender	Male	66	Use of Spreadsheet Programs	Yes	72
	Female	34		No	28
Age Group	20 and Below	2	Education	Basic to Senior High	33
	21-30	26		Graduate	33
	31-40	38		Post Graduate	18
	41-50	22		Certificate/Diploma/HND	14
	Above 50	12		No Formal Education	2
Marital Status	Single	37	Interest in Energy and Resource Management	Yes	97
	Married with Young Kids	49		No	3
	Married with Adult Kids	7	Entity Heads (MSMEs)	Female	40
	Married Without Kids	4		Male	60
	Divorced	2	Level of Expertise in the use of Spreadsheet programs	Novice - Intermediate	73
	Other	1		Advanced	27
Inclination Towards Energy and Resource Saving at Home	A lot	54	Inclination Towards Energy and Resource Saving at Work Environment	A lot	52
	A fair amount	31		A fair amount	33
	Not Very Much	12		Not Very Much	12
	None at All	1		None at All	2
	Don't Know	2		Don't Know	2

Table 2: Total Number of Training Personnel at Regional and Sectoral Level

Region	MMDAs	MSMEs		Other	Total	Share(%)
		Other MSMEs	Hotels			
Western	19	63	20	1	103	20.60
Volta	20	76	17	2	115	23.00
Ashanti	12	16	17	1	46	9.20
Western North	8	90	3	1	102	20.40
Northern	17	17	33	2	69	13.80
Upper East	23	23	18	1	65	13.00
Total	99	285	108	8	500	100
Shares (%)	19.80	57.00	21.60	1.60	100	

Table 3: Total Number of Workers in MSMEs

Sector	Number of Entities	Women	Men	Youth	Total Workers
Hotel & Hospitality	124	1,640	1,256	2,250	2,896
Manufacturing MSMEs	58	406	289	545	695
NGOs	10	83	89	137	172
Other MSMEs	142	566	628	988	1,194
Total	334	2,695	2,262	3,920	4,957

Beneficiaries of the training for energy and resource managers expressed their appreciation to UNDP for providing the funding and logistics, and to the implementing agencies (Energy Commission and EPA) for providing the resource persons to make this opportunity possible. Upon witnessing the program's potential benefits, many trainees have advocated for its expansion to other sectors of the economy because there is a greater potential to reduce inefficiencies in energy and resource use, increase revenue generation, and ultimately result in lower carbon emissions.

The Energy Commission will continue to partner UNDP and EPA to extend the training to other Regions and sectors.

Workshop Photos from Energy and Resource Management Training.

















