

GEF-UNIDO IEE & RECP PROJECT NIGERIA NEWSLETTER



Quarter 2 Update

Deepening Impact, Building Momentum



Quarter 2 marked a decisive shift from planning and orientation into hands-on capacity building, real-world application, and deeper stakeholder engagement. The conversations matured.

The questions became more practical. And the outcomes began to feel tangible, especially for industries and institutions already grappling with rising energy costs, inefficient resource use, and sustainability pressures.

Quarter 2 was not about theory. It was about application, confidence, and readiness.

Across Lagos, Anambra, Abuja, and Kano, the project moved closer to its core mission: enabling Nigerian industries to operate more efficiently, competitively, and sustainably through Industrial Energy Efficiency (IEE) and Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) methodologies.

Strengthening Capacity Through Targeted Training

A defining feature of Quarter 2 was the rollout of Finance and Investment Trainings, designed to address one of the most persistent gaps in the sustainability ecosystem: the disconnect between technical solutions and access to financing.

While many industries understand the need to improve energy efficiency and reduce waste, fewer know how to translate these needs into bankable proposals that financial institutions can support.

Quarter 2 trainings were structured to close this gap.

Participants were guided through:

- Understanding the financial logic behind energy efficiency investments
- Translating technical audits into credible business cases
- Developing bankable business plans aligned with RECP principles
- Understanding risk, returns, and mitigation from a financier's perspective

These sessions brought together industry players, technical experts, and financial institutions, creating a rare and valuable space for dialogue across sectors that often operate in silos.

By the end of each training, participants were not just better informed. They were more confident, more aligned, and more prepared to take the next step.

Intermediate Technical Training: Raising the Bar

Quarter 2 also featured Intermediate Technical Training on IEE & RECP, pushing participants beyond introductory concepts into more advanced application. Facilitated by both international and national experts, these sessions deepened understanding in areas such as:

- Advanced energy auditing techniques
- Optimization of energy-intensive systems
- Cleaner production assessment methodologies
- Data-driven decision-making for resource efficiency

What stood out was the shift in mindset. Participants began to move from asking “What is energy efficiency?” to “How do I optimize this specific process in my facility?”

From “What does RECP mean?” to “How do I integrate RECP into daily operations?”

This transition marked a critical milestone for the project. It showed readiness. It showed ownership. And it confirmed that the capacity-building approach was working.



Cleaner Production Assessments: Learning Meets Practice

One of the most impactful components of Quarter 2 was the commencement of Cleaner Production Assessments for selected companies in Lagos and Ogun States.

These assessments bridged the gap between training rooms and factory floors.

Teams of international and Nigerian experts worked closely with industries to:

- Identify inefficiencies in energy and resource use
- Map production processes and waste streams
- Propose realistic, cost-effective improvement options
- Align recommendations with both environmental and business objectives

For many participating companies, this was their first experience with a structured, internationally aligned cleaner production assessment.

The process reinforced a powerful insight:

Sustainability is not a destination. It is a continuous improvement journey.

Stakeholder Engagement and Ecosystem Building

Beyond trainings and assessments, Quarter 2 placed strong emphasis on strengthening relationships across the sustainability ecosystem.

Engagements with:

- Manufacturers and industry associations
- Financial institutions
- Technical experts and consultants
- Government agencies and regulators helped position the project not just as a training initiative, but as a platform for collaboration.

These engagements also reinforced the project's credibility, particularly as stakeholders saw consistency between what was taught, what was practised, and what was delivered.

Communication, Visibility, and Knowledge Sharing

Quarter 2 significantly expanded the project's digital footprint and public visibility.

Key highlights included:

- Video coverage of trainings and interviews with participants and facilitators
- YouTube uploads of full training sessions and highlights
- Short-form video content for Instagram and X
- Media coverage in both print and online publications

These efforts ensured that the project's impact extended beyond physical event venues. Knowledge shared in Lagos or Abuja could now reach stakeholders across Nigeria and beyond.

Importantly, communication was not treated as an afterthought. It became an integral part of project delivery, reinforcing transparency, accountability, and stakeholder confidence.

Early Outcomes and Emerging Impact

By the end of Quarter 2, several early outcomes were already evident:

- Increased confidence among participants to engage financial institutions
- Improved quality of sustainability-focused business proposals
- Greater awareness of RECP as a strategic business tool, not just an environmental concept
- Stronger alignment between technical experts and industry needs
- Growing recognition of the project as a credible driver of industrial transformation

These outcomes laid a solid foundation for deeper interventions in subsequent quarters.

Lessons from Quarter 2

Quarter 2 also offered valuable lessons:

- Practical, hands-on learning drives stronger engagement than theory alone
- Financial literacy is a critical enabler of sustainability adoption
- Cross-sector dialogue significantly improves solution design
- Continuous communication strengthens stakeholder trust
- Capacity building must be progressive, not one-off

These lessons informed adjustments in planning for future quarters, ensuring the project remains responsive and effective.

Looking Ahead

As Quarter 2 closed, the project stood at an important juncture.

The groundwork had been laid.

The capacity had been strengthened.

The ecosystem was beginning to align.

The focus moving forward would be on scaling impact, deepening technical application, and supporting real investments in energy efficiency and cleaner production.

Quarter 2 did not just build momentum. It proved that transformation is possible when knowledge, finance, and commitment come together.