

NEWSLETTER

Quarter 3 Update

From Capacity Building to Practical Transformation

By the third quarter, the GEF-UNIDO IEE & RECP Project in Nigeria had moved beyond momentum. This was the phase where learning began to settle into practice, where conversations shifted from “what is possible” to “what is already changing.”

Quarter 3 was defined by depth. Deeper technical engagement. Deeper collaboration with industries. Deeper visibility across platforms. And perhaps most importantly, a deeper sense of ownership among participants and partners.

Strengthening Technical Capacity at an Advanced Level

Building on the foundations laid in earlier quarters, Q3 focused strongly on advanced and intermediate technical capacity building.

The emphasis was no longer just awareness or introduction. It was about equipping professionals, engineers, and industry actors with the tools to diagnose, design, and implement energy efficiency and resource efficiency solutions in real operational environments.

Key technical trainings held during the quarter brought together:

- Industry practitioners across manufacturing and processing sectors
- Energy and environmental experts
- Financial and institutional stakeholders
- Technical personnel from UNIDO and national counterparts



Sessions went beyond theory, addressing:

- Industrial energy efficiency optimization
- Cleaner Production and RECP assessment methodologies
- Energy audits during peak production cycles
- Optimization of motors, pumps, steam systems, and process flows
- Integration of sustainability thinking into daily operational decisions

The training was practical, interactive, and deliberately structured to mirror real industrial challenges.

Case studies, group exercises, and scenario-based learning ensured that participants did not just “learn” but practised thinking like sustainability champions.



Cleaner Production Assessments and Industry Engagement

One of the defining features of Quarter 3 was the transition from classroom to factory floor.

Following the technical trainings, **Cleaner Production Assessments** commenced for selected companies, particularly across Lagos and Ogun industrial corridors.

These assessments marked a critical milestone for the project, demonstrating its practical relevance and immediate value to Nigerian industries.

Multidisciplinary teams of international and local experts:

- Conducted walk-through assessments
- Identified energy, water, and material inefficiencies
- Mapped emission points and process losses
- Engaged management and technical staff in solution design

For many participating companies, this was the first time sustainability conversations were framed not just as environmental responsibility, but as cost reduction, productivity improvement, and long-term competitiveness.

The shift in perspective was visible. Sustainability stopped being an abstract goal and became a business strategy.



Finance and Investment Conversations Take Centre Stage

Quarter 3 also deepened engagement around sustainable finance, reinforcing a key message of the project: technical solutions must be matched with financial pathways.

Finance and Investment Training sessions and follow-up engagements helped bridge the long-standing gap between industries and financial institutions. Participants explored:

- How to structure bankable energy efficiency projects
- What financial institutions look for in sustainability proposals
- Risk mitigation strategies and investment readiness
- The role of development finance and blended finance models

These conversations were crucial for industries that had long assumed that financing energy efficiency projects was either too complex or out of reach. The project helped demystify the process, restoring confidence and opening new possibilities.

Growing Visibility and Sustained Engagement

While the technical work intensified, communication and visibility did not slow down.

Quarter 3 saw continued deployment of:

- Training highlight videos on YouTube
- Short-form video content across Instagram and X
- Professional updates and thought leadership posts on LinkedIn
- Media coverage across online and print platforms

Interviews with facilitators, participants, and technical experts helped humanize the project, allowing voices from the field to tell the story of impact in their own words.

Even during periods without major public events, the project maintained a steady digital presence. This consistency ensured that stakeholders, partners, and the wider public remained connected to the project's journey.

Institutional Collaboration and Stakeholder Confidence

Another quiet but significant achievement of Quarter 3 was the strengthening of trust among partners.

UNIDO, GEF, MAN, ECN, financial institutions, and government stakeholders continued to work in alignment, reviewing progress, refining approaches, and preparing for subsequent phases of implementation.

There was a growing sense that the project was not just delivering activities, but building a national ecosystem for industrial sustainability.

Key Outcomes of Quarter 3

By the end of the third quarter, the project had achieved several notable outcomes:

- Advanced technical skills strengthened among industry and expert participants
- Cleaner Production Assessments initiated in real industrial settings
- Increased confidence among industries to pursue energy efficiency investments
- Stronger linkage between technical solutions and financing mechanisms
- Sustained public engagement through digital platforms and media

Quarter 3 did not seek to be loud. It sought to be effective. And in that quiet effectiveness, the foundations for long-term impact were reinforced.



Looking Ahead

As the project moved toward the final quarter of the year, the focus became clearer: consolidation, documentation of impact, scaling of success stories, and preparing for long-term sustainability beyond the project lifecycle.

Quarter 3 reminded all stakeholders of an important truth. Transformation does not always arrive with fanfare. Sometimes, it shows up as better decisions, smarter systems, and industries that begin to see sustainability not as an obligation, but as an opportunity.