

**UN GLOBAL COMPACT**  
**COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT**

## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS

The Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) remains committed to the ten principles of the UN Global Compact. In our quest to promote best business practices, AGI first rolled out the Ghana Business Code (GBC) from 2006 to 2010. The Code was started as a set of norms based on the universal principles referred to in the U.N Global Compact relating to human rights, labour standards, environment and anti-corruption, among others. AGI initiated this with other Business Associations and supported by the Danish Development Assistance.

Today we are happy to be part of the UN Compact and have linked our members to the UN Global Compact after the expiration of the Ghana Business Code. We consider the UN Global Compact as guiding principles and a benchmark in our business practices as an Association and will always uphold these principles. As an association with a diverse membership, we also feel challenged to ensure compliance with the principles by all our sectors as much as possible. In creating a conducive business environment we have also denounced unfair and corrupt business practices that tend to give others an edge over their peers in doing business.

Some of our major activities undertaken within 2018 to 2021 include the following;

### **1.0 Promoting Sustainable Practices**

AGI remains committed to promoting sustainable practices and economic growth, but not at the expense of the environment.

To this end AGI has over the last three years established projects to promote this agenda. The projects include

1. Ghana Recycling Initiative by Private Enterprises (GRIPE)
2. AGI German Solar Association (BSW-Solar)
3. AGI Energy Service Centre

### **1.1 GRIPE**

GRIPE was formed in 2017 under the auspices of the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) to enable a circular economy for plastics in Ghana through sustainable community engagement and sensitization programmes to spur an economy free of waste pollution including plastic waste. GRIPE comprises, currently 14 AGI member companies who have come together to deliver their corporate responsibility under the umbrella of GRIPE

Highlights of GRIPE's key activities since 2018:

- Partnered the UNDP Waste Recovery Platform to develop a COVID-19 Communication Plan that projects the important role of waste collectors in the COVID-19 response plan.

- Commissioned a study into the possible use of recycled plastic waste for building and construction with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research -Building and Road Research Institute (CSIR-BBRI).
- Supported the CSIR-BBRI with funding to build a 6-seater toilet facility using plastic-modified concrete and blocks. Over two (2) tons of plastic waste was used for the construction. The facility was inaugurated at Domeabra M/A Junior High School, a primary school in Ejisu Juaben district of Ashanti region providing new latrines for the students.
- Commenced research into recycling of polystyrene waste into floor tiles with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Institute of Industrial Research (CSIR-IIR). So far over 2,000 pieces of polystyrene waste have been recovered to make the tiles.
- Partnered the CSIR-IIR to kicked-off a plastic recovery project for selected Senior High Schools in the Greater Accra Region, with recovery volume reaching over 9,000kg since the project's launch last year.
- We are also active members of the PREVENT Waste Alliance a platform initiated by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for organizations to jointly engage on the circular economy.

**1.2 Rewarding Sustainable Practices-** Under the AGI Ghana Industry and Quality Awards, AGI instituted the Best Practices in Sustainable Manufacturing Award category. The Award seeks to identify and reward companies that adopt environmentally friendly and sustainable business practices in their manufacturing processes and has been running for the past 8 years.

### **1.3 AGI BSW Solar project**

In 2017, the Association of Ghana Industries in close cooperation with the German Solar Association (BSW-Solar) established the AGI Working Group of Renewable Energy/Solar Energy Companies within AGI to promote the use of renewable energy technologies and in particular solar energy within Ghana's cocoa value chain. The group was formed to promote the use of renewable/solar technologies, among others, in the agriculture and food processing (cocoa) sectors to address their energy needs in a sustainable manner.

The overall objective of the project is to improve the conditions for increased private investments in renewable energy. The initiative forms part of the PartnerAfrica Project Ghana "Solar Ghana Cocoa", through the special initiative on training and job creation funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and supported by sequa gGmbH. Solar energy, in particular, is a cleaner source of electricity and will help reduce the cost of doing business in Ghana, and thereby enhance the competitiveness of Ghana's

industry and agriculture sectors. This will also expand jobs, strengthen industrial and economic growth in Ghana.

Ghana is worldwide the 2nd largest cocoa exporter and AGI believes the establishment of this project could not have come at a better time.

It holds the potential to increase cocoa yields significantly through solar powered irrigation systems, save energy cost as well as reduce carbon emissions. Consistent with the SDGs Goal 7, AGI seeks to promote the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency as more businesses begin to realize the value of renewable energy. We reaffirm the importance of renewable energy, towards a cleaner energy future and energy security with a view to fostering sustainable economic development.

#### **1.4 AGI Energy Service Centre (ESC)**

##### **Assisting Commercial and Industrial Companies to Save On Energy Costs**

The AGI Energy Service Centre was established by the AGI in 2019 under the bilateral project "Market Entry into Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) RE/EE for the Productive Sector in Ghana" which was funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

The main objectives of the Centre are to promote the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency among commercial and industrial (C&I) electricity consumers in Ghana. The Centre also provides capacity building support for RE/EE service providers in Ghana.

Since its establishment two and half years ago, the Centre has undertaken a number of activities aimed at sensitising AGI member and non-member companies on energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities.

The Centre undertook a number of subsidized hands-on training programs for employees of commercial and industrial electricity consumers and for renewable energy and energy efficiency service providers to improve their delivery capabilities. These trainings and services were facilitated by local and international experts.

#### **2.0 Anti-corruption**

A member company of the Association of Ghana Industries, Aluworks Ltd alleged dumping of aluminium coils and circles onto the Ghanaian market in 2021. Aluworks Ltd said the products imported from China have been causing material injury to the local economy and the metals industry in Ghana. To ensure fair trade practices, the Association of Ghana Industries directed the matter to the Ghana International Trade Commission (GITC) for investigation.

The GITC later opened investigations on this matter. At the end of investigations, anti-dumping duties were imposed on aluminum coils and circles imported from China.

## **MEASURE OF OUTCOMES**

**GRIPE-** Recovered and recycled over 9,000MT of post-consumer plastics mainly PET, LDPE and HDPE (from initiatives such as beach clean-ups, provision of tricycles to waste pickers to drive collections, school collection drives, community plastic buyback events & centre, and PET recycling.

Engaged up to 10 low-income generating communities and collected over 15 tons of plastic waste through community plastic buyback events in low-income generating and coastal communities. The program is based on the understanding that people can exchange plastics with cash by separating and selling their post-consumer plastic waste.

Enhanced the livelihoods of local communities by providing at least 200 people with additional sources of income through plastic waste picking.

Donated 600 packages of food and water and held talks on coping strategies with waste pickers in the light of the COVID-19.

### **AGI Energy Service Centre (ESC)**

A total of 225 staff from commercial and industrial companies, which are mostly large electricity consumers were provided with trainings in topics such as Conducting Industrial and Commercial Energy Audits; RE/EE Tendering, Procurement and Project Development; Planning & Installing Fully Compliant PV Systems: Best Practices and Common Mistakes and others. Through these trainings, companies get to know the zero, low, medium and high capital expenditure opportunities available in their companies to save on their energy costs.

Also, two-hundred and four (204) owners and employees from 76 renewable energy and energy efficiency service provider companies also benefited from the trainings conducted by the Centre. They were trained in topics such as Solar PV (design, installation & maintenance); Technical training in Energy Efficiency (industrial energy audits, industrial energy efficiency, process integration in industry for energy savings) and Case studies training in RE business development, project finance and project development.

The ESC also supported twenty-five (25) commercial and industrial companies with 37 different technical services, including ISO 50002:2014 Type 1 and Type 3 energy audits, Solar PV Feasibility Studies, Transaction Advisory services and Second opinions. Three companies, after an intensive selection process, benefited from the highly subsidized full Transaction Advisory Services of the Centre.

In conclusion, through the technical support of the Energy Service Centre, investment options of 2,500MW of renewable energy projects that can save up to 1,200 tCO<sub>2</sub>/a were supported. It also supported the preparation of investment options for energy efficiency measures that can save up to 1,360MW/a equivalent to 650 tCO<sub>2</sub>/a on carbon emissions.

### **Anti-corruption and unfair trade practices**

Our advocacy against unfair trade practices inured to the benefit of the local metals sector in Ghana which came under pressure from cheap products from China.