



ICAMPUS



INNOVATIVE PLASTIC WASTE DESIGN TRAINING

TRAINING EVENT REPORT

Monrovia, Liberia

June 15, 2026

Waste Management Design Innovation Training

Plastic Waste Recycling, Green Entrepreneurship and Innovation for Sustainable Community Development

Project: Plastic Waste Management Innovation Project

Implementing Organization: iCampus Liberia Inc.

Supported By: Global Environment Facility (GEF) and United Nations
Development Programme (UNDP) Liberia

Venue: University Innovation Pod (UniPod), LakeView Complex, Fendell
Campus, Montserrado County, Liberia

Training Sessions:

- Session I: May 29, 2026 | 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
- Session II: June 5, 2026 | 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Lead Facilitator:

Mr. Luther D. Jeke
Chief Executive Officer, iCampus Liberia Inc.

Co-Facilitator:

Mr. Pius Kumeh
Waste Management Specialist

Attendance:

- May 29, 2026 – 34 Participants
- June 5, 2026 – 33 Participants

Total Participant Engagements: 67

Executive Summary

iCampus Liberia successfully conducted two Waste Management Design Innovation Training sessions at the University Innovation Pod (UniPod), Fendell Campus, Montserrado County. The initiative forms part of a broader effort to equip young people with practical knowledge and skills in plastic waste management, recycling, innovation, entrepreneurship, and environmental sustainability.

The training engaged university students, aspiring entrepreneurs, innovators, environmental advocates, and young professionals in an interactive learning experience focused on transforming plastic waste into economic opportunities while contributing to environmental protection.

The first session introduced participants to the fundamentals of waste management, plastic recycling systems, waste collection models, sorting techniques, and plastic shredding technologies. The second session focused on entrepreneurship, design thinking, innovation, and the development of waste-to-wealth business solutions.

A major highlight of the second session was the participation of Mr. Louis Kuukpen, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Liberia, who delivered special remarks encouraging participants to become innovators, entrepreneurs, and agents of environmental transformation.

The training series represents the beginning of a larger innovation journey that will continue over the next two months and culminate in a Waste Management Design Innovation Hackathon.

1. Project Background

Liberia continues to face growing challenges related to solid waste management, particularly plastic pollution. Rapid urbanization, inadequate waste collection systems, poor waste segregation practices, and limited recycling infrastructure contribute significantly to environmental degradation, public health risks, and economic losses.

Plastic waste is among the most visible environmental concerns in communities across Montserrado County. Streets, drainage systems, waterways, schools, and marketplaces are increasingly impacted by improperly disposed plastic materials.

Recognizing these challenges, the Waste Management Design Innovation Project was developed to empower youth and communities with innovative solutions that transform waste into valuable resources while creating economic opportunities.

The project promotes:

- Environmental sustainability
- Plastic waste recovery and recycling
- Youth empowerment
- Entrepreneurship development
- Green innovation
- Community engagement
- Circular economy principles

The project aligns with Liberia's ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development and contributes to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 8, 11, 12, 13, and 17.

2. Training Background

The Waste Management Design Innovation Training was designed to bridge the gap between environmental awareness and practical action.

While many young people recognize the impact of waste pollution, relatively few possess the technical, entrepreneurial, and innovation skills required to develop sustainable solutions.

The training therefore focused on helping participants:

- Understand waste management systems.
- Learn practical recycling techniques.
- Develop entrepreneurial mindsets.
- Apply design thinking methodologies.
- Explore green business opportunities.
- Create innovative solutions to environmental challenges.
- Build leadership and problem-solving skills.

The overall objective is to support a new generation of environmentally conscious innovators capable of developing sustainable businesses and community-based waste management solutions.

3. Training Objectives

General Objective

To strengthen the capacity of youth and university students to design innovative solutions for plastic waste management while promoting entrepreneurship and sustainable community development.

Specific Objectives

- Increase awareness of plastic pollution challenges.
- Build practical knowledge of recycling systems.
- Introduce participants to plastic collection and processing.
- Promote environmental stewardship.
- Strengthen entrepreneurial and innovation skills.
- Encourage green enterprise development.
- Support youth leadership in sustainability initiatives.

4. Training Methodology

The training utilized highly participatory and experiential learning approaches including:

- Interactive presentations
- Group discussions
- Practical demonstrations
- Design thinking exercises
- Team-based challenges
- Question-and-answer sessions
- Business ideation workshops
- Experience-sharing activities

The methodology encouraged active participation, collaboration, and practical application of concepts.

5. Session I Highlights

May 29, 2026

Theme:

Plastic Waste Management and Recycling Systems

Topics covered included:

- Introduction to waste management
- Plastic pollution challenges in Liberia
- Environmental impacts of plastic waste
- Waste collection systems
- Sorting and segregation techniques
- Plastic recycling value chains
- Community-based collection models

- Plastic shredding technology
- Occupational safety and environmental responsibility

Participants also engaged in practical demonstrations and discussions on opportunities within Liberia's emerging recycling ecosystem.

6. Session II Highlights

June 5, 2026

Theme:

From Waste to Wealth – Innovation and Green Entrepreneurship

Topics covered included:

- Design thinking and innovation
- Circular economy principles
- Green entrepreneurship
- Business opportunity identification
- Waste-to-wealth business models
- Startup development
- Community impact solutions
- Leadership and sustainability

Participants worked in teams to identify environmental challenges and propose innovative recycling and business solutions.

7. Special Guest Remarks

Mr. Louis Kuukpen

Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Liberia

The June 5 training session was honored by the presence of Mr. Louis Kuukpen, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Liberia.

In his remarks, Mr. Kuukpen commended participants for their commitment to learning and innovation and encouraged them to view environmental challenges as opportunities for entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

He emphasized the critical role of young people in driving Liberia's future and urged participants to develop practical solutions capable of creating social, environmental, and economic impact.

His remarks inspired participants and reinforced the importance of innovation, leadership, and environmental stewardship.

8. Key Outcomes

The training achieved several important outcomes:

Knowledge Enhancement

Participants gained increased understanding of:

- Plastic waste management
- Recycling systems
- Circular economy concepts
- Environmental sustainability

Skills Development

Participants acquired practical skills in:

- Waste sorting
- Recycling processes
- Design thinking
- Entrepreneurship
- Problem-solving

Entrepreneurship Development

Participants identified viable opportunities in:

- Plastic collection businesses
- Recycling enterprises
- Waste aggregation services
- Green startups

Increased Environmental Awareness

Participants demonstrated stronger appreciation for environmental conservation and responsible waste management.

9. Participant Feedback

Participants expressed appreciation for:

- Practical demonstrations
- Interactive facilitation
- Entrepreneurial focus
- Innovation-centered learning
- Networking opportunities

Participants also recommended:

- Additional practical sessions
- Advanced entrepreneurship training
- Mentorship opportunities
- Business incubation support

10. Challenges Encountered

The primary challenges included:

- Limited time for hands-on activities
- High demand for practical demonstrations
- Need for additional prototyping materials
- Requests for extended mentorship support

11. Recommendations

The following recommendations emerged from the training:

1. Conduct advanced recycling and entrepreneurship training.
2. Expand waste innovation programming.
3. Establish mentorship opportunities for participants.
4. Support prototype development and business incubation.
5. Strengthen partnerships among universities, government institutions, and development partners.
6. Facilitate access to financing opportunities for green enterprises.

12. Next Steps and Program Continuation

The two completed training sessions represent the first phase of a larger Waste Management Design Innovation Program.

Over the next two months, six (6) additional training sessions will be conducted to further strengthen participants' skills in:

- Design thinking
- Innovation
- Entrepreneurship
- Prototype development
- Circular economy solutions
- Business development
- Leadership
- Sustainable waste management

The training program will culminate in a three-session Waste Management Design Innovation Hackathon.

During the hackathon, participants will be divided into four (4) teams and challenged to develop innovative waste management solutions, build prototypes, and pitch their ideas before a panel of judges.

Each team will be required to:

- Identify a waste management challenge.
- Apply design thinking methodologies.
- Develop a prototype.
- Present an implementation plan.
- Deliver an innovation pitch.

Innovation Awards

To support implementation of the most promising solutions, winning teams will receive seed funding:

Category	Award
First Place	USD \$650
Second Place	USD \$450

All participants who successfully complete the training program and hackathon activities will receive Certificates of Completion in recognition of their achievement and commitment to environmental innovation and entrepreneurship.

13. Conclusion

The Waste Management Design Innovation Training successfully provided participants with practical knowledge, entrepreneurial skills, and innovative approaches to addressing Liberia's growing plastic waste challenge.

The training demonstrated how environmental problems can be transformed into opportunities for innovation, employment creation, and sustainable development.

The active engagement of participants, the technical expertise provided by the facilitators, and the inspiring remarks delivered by Mr. Louis Kuukpen contributed significantly to the success of the initiative.

As the program progresses toward the remaining six training sessions and the final innovation hackathon, it is expected to generate impactful youth-led solutions capable of contributing to cleaner communities, stronger local economies, and a more sustainable Liberia.

Prepared By:



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