

Team Name: BigFoot

School: Koforidua Technical University

1. Project Overview

Local Climate Action: Waste-to-Footwear Initiative (Team Bigfoot – Koforidua)

In Koforidua, **Bigfoot** is advancing a local climate action project that tackles coconut waste pollution by **recycling discarded coconut husks into affordable, high-quality footwear components** (such as footbeds for sandals, slippers, and shoes).

Ghana produces over **30,000 tons of coconuts annually**, and while the fruit and water are consumed, the husks are **discarded into landfills or left on streets**, where they release methane and carbon dioxide as they decompose worsening local air quality and contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. Meanwhile footwear manufacturers face a significant challenge an unreliable supply of footbeds caused by rely on import that hinders production, affects profitability and increases prices on the market for customers.

With Bigfoot we are connecting what is waste into resources by producing affordable local footbeds from recycled coconut husks.

By **repurposing these husks**, we not only reduce waste and pollution but also cuts **approximately 58 kg of CO₂ and methane emissions for every ton of husk recycled**. This initiative supports Ghana's broader **National Climate Change Policy** and aligns with **local sustainability goals** under waste management and green innovation.

It demonstrates how **youth-led innovation and circular economy solutions** can drive real climate impact at the community level — creating jobs, reducing emissions, and promoting locally made sustainable products.

2. Visual Story

FROM WASTE TO WALK

How Team Bigfoot is Reducing Carbon Emissions One Step at a Time



Transforming discarded coconut husks into affordable, eco-friendly footwear components in Koforidua.



WHY IT MATTERS

- Ghana produces over 30,000 tons of coconuts annually, most husks go to waste
- Decomposing husks release carbon dioxide and methane, accelerating climate change
- Every 1 ton recycled = 58 kg of greenhouse gases prevented
- Promotes circular economy & local craftsmanship



58 kg of emissions reduced per ton



HOW STUDENTS CAN GET INVOLVED

- Collect coconut husks from local food vendors
- Volunteer or intern with Team Bigfoot
- Promote eco-footwear awareness on campus
- Design creative marketing or engineering solutions for recycling

3. A clear title or headline

Title:

From Waste to Walk: How Team Bigfoot is Reducing Carbon Emissions One Step at a Time

Sub headline:

Transforming discarded coconut husks into affordable, eco-friendly footwear components

4. 2–3 visuals (icons, doodles, photos, or graphics)



5. Initiative Overview

What the Initiative Is:

Bigfoot is on a mission to transform discarded coconut husks into affordable, eco-friendly footwear components. By utilizing these otherwise wasted materials, the initiative not only creates innovative and sustainable products but also addresses serious waste management issues in our community. Each pair of footwear produced contributes to reducing the carbon footprint associated with traditional manufacturing processes.

Why It Matters

1. **Environmental Impact:** This initiative plays a crucial role in reducing carbon emissions by repurposing waste materials that would otherwise contribute to landfills. By turning coconut husks into valuable products, we are actively promoting a circular economy that minimizes waste and maximizes resource efficiency.
2. **Community Engagement:** Beyond its environmental benefits, this initiative fosters community involvement and awareness about sustainability. It encourages individuals to rethink their consumption habits and understand the importance of recycling and upcycling in combating climate change.
3. **Economic Benefits:** The creation of affordable, eco-friendly footwear not only supports local artisans and small businesses but also stimulates economic growth in Koforidua. By investing in sustainable practices, we are paving the way for a greener economy that prioritizes both people and the planet.

Who's Responsible

Team Bigfoot is comprised of a passionate team of four students who are local entrepreneurs, environmental advocates, and dedicated community volunteers who are committed to sustainability.

How Students Can Get Involved

One Way Students can actively participate in several impactful ways, including:

1. **Collect Coconut Husks:** Volunteer to gather discarded coconut husks from local food vendors. This effort directly supports the initiative by ensuring a sustainable supply of materials for production.

2. Volunteer with Team Bigfoot: Join the team as a volunteer or intern to gain hands-on experience in sustainable practices, product development, and community engagement.

3. Promote Eco-Footwear Awareness on Campus: Help raise awareness about eco-friendly footwear by organizing informational booths, presentations, or events that highlight the importance of sustainable fashion.

4. Design Creative Marketing or Engineering Solutions for Recycling: Use your creativity and skills to develop innovative marketing strategies or engineering solutions that enhance the recycling process and promote the initiative.

By engaging in these activities, students not only contribute to the success of the Bigfoot project but also foster a culture of sustainability within their community.

Instagram Post

Emissions One Step at a Time

Transforming discarded coconut husks into affordable, eco-friendly footwear components in Koforidua.

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58 kg of emissions reduced per ton

HOW STUDENTS CAN GET

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big_footgh From Waste to Walk! Bigfoot is turning discarded coconut husks into eco-friendly footwear in Koforidua.

- ✓ Reducing carbon emissions
- ✓ Supporting local artisans
- ✓ Promoting a circular economy

Join us in making a difference! @turninggorg @c40cities @climatemayors #pgc2025 #Sustainability #bigfoot #EcoFootwear #climateaction

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