

Team Name: Bigfoot

School: Koforidua Technical University

Community Climate Action Challenge Deliverable

“ReGen Planters: Turning Waste into Green Space”

Team Members:

- Monica Annim (Team Lead)
- Martin Tetteh
- Priscilla Addo
- Teiko Agbozo Maakumah
- Charles Mawuya

Institution: Koforidua Technical University

Date: October 22, 2025

Inspiration: A Call to Local Action

Every great movement begins with a spark a single idea that challenges the way people think, act, and live.

For our team, that spark came from reading about **Siri Vadlamudi**, a teenage climate leader from Telangana, India. Her story in *The Times of India* deeply moved us: at just fifteen, she decided to **transform environmental education into something joyful and interactive**. Instead of lectures, she created *games* that helped students learn about conservation and climate change through play.

Her approach reminded us that sometimes, *the most powerful way to create change is to make people care through creativity and joy.*

We were also inspired by the **Earthshot Prize 2025 Nominees**, each proving that innovation and compassion can reshape our world. Among them were changemakers working on:

- Restoring coral reefs with living 3D-printed structures.
- Cleaning the air using nature-based filters.
- Turning waste into new raw materials for local industries.
- Empowering women in rural communities to lead climate adaptation projects.

From both Siri’s youthful drive and Earthshot’s global ambition, we learned that **no idea is too small when pursued with passion and teamwork.**

We wanted to create something that reflected that same spirit — *a local solution with global meaning*.

Step 1: Identifying Local Climate Concerns (3 Minutes)

We began our huddle with an open circle of discussion of five members. Each member shared one issue affecting our immediate surroundings in Koforidua and the nearby community.

Here's what came up:

1. **Plastic Pollution:** Plastic bottles and sachet water wrappers blocking gutters after rain, causing flooding and breeding mosquitoes.
2. **Air Pollution:** Burning piles of mixed waste near student hostels.
3. **E-Waste:** Broken electronics piling up in market areas without proper disposal.
4. **Deforestation:** Fewer trees around campus, creating heat pockets and reducing shade.
5. **Waste Segregation:** Most bins collect all waste together, making recycling difficult.

After voting, we unanimously chose **plastic waste** as our central issue. It's something visible, urgent, and directly linked to our daily lives. It's also a problem that young people can address through **creativity, innovation, and education** — not just awareness talks but tangible action.

Step 2: Brainstorming Possible Actions (10 Minutes)

We used brainstorming, design thinking, and the “5 Why” technique to explore potential interventions.

Our goal: find solutions that are practical, measurable, and exciting enough to draw others in.

Action 1: Eco Swap Week - “Choose to Reuse”

Encourage students to carry reusable bottles, lunch boxes, and straws for one week.

- **Goal:** 100 students join the movement.
- **Impact:** Direct reduction of single-use plastic across campus.
- **Activities:** Awareness posters, social media reels, and a digital pledge wall.

Action 2: Plastic-to-Planter Workshop - “ReGen Planters”

Collect used plastic bottles and turn them into colorful flower pots to beautify campus.

- **Goal:** 25 upcycled planters made from 100 bottles.
- **Impact:** Combines art, recycling, and environmental education.
- **Activities:** Campus clean-up, creative upcycling workshop, planting event.

Action 3: Campus Recycling Hub - “Bin It Right”

Establish recycling stations and link them to local waste management groups.

- **Goal:** Install 3 recycling bins in key campus locations.
- **Impact:** Institutionalizes sustainable waste habits.
- **Activities:** Collaboration with facilities management and student union.

Objectives

1. Divert at least **100 plastic bottles** from waste streams.
2. Engage **50 students** in a hands-on sustainability workshop.
3. Beautify campus with **25 eco-planters** that serve as green installations.
4. Demonstrate **circular economy principles** in action.
5. Spark **cross-disciplinary collaboration** between engineering, art, and environmental science students.

Team Member	Role	Responsibility
Monica Annim	<i>Project Lead</i>	Coordinate planning, oversee materials, prepare final report.
Martin Tetteh	<i>Logistics Coordinator</i>	Collect bottles, paints, and plants; ensure setup and cleanup.
Priscilla Addo	<i>Design Lead</i>	Guide planter decoration and arrangement aesthetics.
Teiko Maakumah	<i>Awareness & Media Officer</i>	Create posters, manage social-media campaign, capture event footage.
Charles Mawunya	<i>Documentation & Monitoring</i>	Record data, participant feedback, and environmental outcomes.

Expected Outcomes and Impact

Quantitative Results

- 100 plastic bottles repurposed.
- 25 planters installed across key campus locations.
- 50+ students and faculty engaged.
- Measurable reduction in on-campus litter.

Qualitative Results

- Increased student consciousness about waste and sustainability.
- A more vibrant and welcoming campus environment.
- Strengthened teamwork and leadership among youth participants.
- Development of a culture that celebrates *repair, reuse, and renewal*.

Sustainability Vision

The project will not end with one event. Our team plans to:

- Launch a “**Green Adopt-A-Space**” program, where departments maintain their planters.
- Partner with local **artisans and recyclers** to scale the initiative to nearby schools.
- Introduce **ReGen 2.0** a version where plastics are transformed into vertical gardens for limited-space communities.

Reflection: From Conversation to Transformation

Our 20-minute huddle grew into a powerful reminder that leadership does not come from age or position it comes from **care and creativity**.

We learned that collective effort transforms frustration into hope and waste into opportunity.

Each bottle we collected told a story once discarded, now reborn as a vessel for life. Each teammate discovered their strength: organization, artistry, communication, or vision.

Together, we saw that **climate action is not a distant dream; it's a decision we make every day**.

From Siri Vadlamudi's playful learning sessions in India to the Earthshot innovators changing the world, we learned that *sustainability is a chain of courage*.

Our small act at Koforidua Technical University may not end the plastic crisis, but it begins a wave of awareness a visible, living proof that transformation is possible.

“We don't inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”
And we intend to return it greener than we found it.

Call to Action

We invite every student, lecturer, and citizen to **join the ReGen movement**.
Let's rethink waste, repurpose creativity, and reimagine our shared spaces.

If one teenager in India can change how a generation learns about the planet,
and a group of innovators can redefine global systems,
then **five determined students in Ghana** can also light the path toward a sustainable future.

Because real change starts small with one conversation, one bottle, one seed
and grows into something powerful enough to change the world.





Action Snapshot

ReGen Planters – Turning Waste into Green Space

! Issue

Plastic waste pollution is a growing problem at Koforidua University and communities. Empty bottles, sachet rubbers, and wrappers, often often end in drains and open spaces, polluting environment and blocking gutters.

🕒 Goal

To transform plastic waste into eco-planters, promoting recycling, recycling, creativity, and beautification of the campus.

"To collect, repurpose, and replant – turning waste into growth."

📅 Next Step

Organize a 'ReGen Planters Workshop' where students will collect and 100+ plastic plastic bottles into decorative tinders filled on flowers and herbs herbs. The event will include a short awareness talk on waste management and creative sustainability.

Saturday, November 9, 2025

Venue: Koforidua Technical University Courtyard

👥 Team & Roles

Monica Annim | Team Lead
Martin Tetteh | Technical Lead
Priscilla Addo | Creative Designer
Telko Agbozo | Media & Awareness
Charles Mawuya | Evaluation Officer

Next Steps After Workshop

- ✓ Place finished planters around key areas of campus (library, admin, lecture blocks, student for student ownership and maintenance)
- ✓ Share impact stories to inspire other schools

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