PACCPOLICY REPORT ON ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY IN GHANA: INSIGHTS FROM THE 26TH NOVEMBER, 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP

Title: Environmental Assessment Regulations & Resource Efficiency Workshop

Date: 28th November 2025

Location: Accra, Ghana (Workshop venue of the Environmental Protection Agency / collaborators)

1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the workshop PACCPOLICY attended on the Environmental Assessment Regulation 2025 (L.I. 2504), Air Quality and Effluent Management Regulations, and Resource Efficiency & Cleaner Production (RECP). The workshop focused on Ghana's updated environmental compliance framework, permitting processes, and sustainability practices required for industry and institutional operations.

The sessions were delivered using technical presentations and visual slides.

2. LEGAL & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

2.1 Environmental Assessment Regulation, 2025 (L.I. 2504)

The Regulation provides the full legal and administrative framework for the environmental assessment and permitting process in Ghana.

Key provisions include:

a. Registration & Permitting

- All undertakings likely to have adverse environmental effects must register with the EPA.
- Environmental Permits are issued after proper assessment.
- Permit validity: 24 months.
- Renewal applications must be submitted at least 3 months before expiry (Regulation 31).
- Existing operations require an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) submitted 6 months before expiry of existing permits, and every 36 months thereafter (Reg. 33).

b. Environmental Assessment Procedures

- Submission of the appropriate registration form.
- Payment of fees as determined in the Fees & Charges Instrument.
- Screening (Reg 6) and Screening Report (Reg 7).

- Screening Decision → Permit or Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA).
- Scoping & Terms of Reference.
- Full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) where applicable.
- Review by Technical Review Committee (TRC).
- Public Participation at all stages.
- Decision-making and Appeals.

3. THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

3.1 Pre-Project Implementation Phase

Steps include:

1. Submission of Application Form
2. Screening / Initial Assessment
3. Scoping and ToR
4. Environmental Impact Study
5. TRC Review & Public Hearing (if required)
6. Final decision-making
7. Appeals process

Timelines apply at each stage.

3.2 Operational Phase Environmental Permitting

For existing facilities:

- Submission of required documents under:
    - Reg. 33: Environmental Management Plan (EMP) ○ Reg. 38: Annual Environmental Report (AER)
- Field audits and verification by EPA
- Review decisions communicated to the operator
- Revised submissions (if required)
- Issuance of Environmental Permit (valid for 24 months)

Note:

If an EMP submission is unsatisfactory 3 consecutive times, sanctions are applied:

→ Penalty: 500 to 15,000 penalty units (Reg. 34(6))

4. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REGULATIONS

4.1 Air Quality Management Regulations (L.I. 2507)

Purpose:

- Implement GS 1236 (fenceline, ambient & point sources)
- Implement GS 1219 (motor vehicle emissions)
- Control air emissions
- Establish air quality monitoring networks
- Enforce compliance & reporting

4.2 Effluent/Wastewater Management Regulations (L.I. 2500)

Purpose:

- Implement GS 1212
- Control wastewater discharges
- Protect ecosystems, water resources, and public health
- Collaborate with stakeholders for effective enforcement **4.3 Draft Noise Regulations**

Purpose:

- Implement GS 1222
- Control ambient noise levels
- Enforce compliance across noise-generating sources

5. RESOURCE EFFICIENCY & CLEANER PRODUCTION (RECP)

What is Resource Efficiency?

Resource Efficiency aims to:

- Reduce resource use per unit of production
- Minimize waste and emissions
- Improve environmental & financial performance
- Enhance sustainability across a product's full life cycle

Measured through:

- Lower energy consumption
- Reduced material input per unit output
- Reduced emissions per production unit

Benefits of RECP

- Higher output from same input
- Reduced production cost
- Increased competitiveness
- Lower waste treatment & disposal cost
- Better working environment → motivated employees
- Improved public image
- Supports eco-innovation
- Creates jobs
- Reduces pollution
- Conserves natural resources

6. KEY OBSERVATIONS RELEVANT TO PACCPOLICY

1. Strengthened environmental regulations require improved internal compliance systems.
2. Timely submission of EMPs and AERs is crucial to avoid regulatory penalties.
3. Noise, air quality, and wastewater controls demand structured monitoring and reporting.
4. RECP presents opportunities for operational cost reduction and sustainability.
5. Public participation and transparency are now central components of environmental governance.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PACCPOLICY

1. Develop a compliance calendar aligned with EPA deadlines and regulatory timelines.
2. Enhance internal systems for monitoring air quality, noise levels, and wastewater practices.
3. Adopt and promote resource efficiency measures across project sites and partner institutions.
4. Engage communities proactively to fulfil public consultation obligations.
5. Strengthen documentation and reporting processes to support audits and reviews.
6. Provide training for staff to improve understanding of new legal requirements.
7. with EPA and stakeholders to stay updated on regulatory changes.

9. CONCLUSION

PACCPOLICY's participation in this workshop contributes significantly to our organizational commitment to environmental governance, regulatory compliance, and sustainable development. The insights gained will guide internal policy improvements and strengthen our operational standards in line with Ghana's updated environmental regulations.