

2022 Communication on Student Energy's Engagement with the UN Global Compact

April 26th, 2022

Student Energy

324-309 West Cordova

Vancouver, BC, Canada

From: The Office of the Executive Director of Student Energy

Dear Partners, Stakeholders, and fellow Compact Members,

I am pleased to confirm that Student Energy reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment, and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact and its stakeholders.

In the last two years, Student Energy has significantly grown as a global organization that works with a diverse network of over 50,000 youth in 132 countries around the world and facilitates youth engagement with companies, governments, and actors in the energy and climate sector. Last year, we launched a UN-Energy Compact: *The Youth Solutions Movement*, a commitment that is directly supporting and funding the deployment of 10,000 youth-led clean energy solutions by 2030. The delivery of this ambitious initiative's launch and ongoing efforts would not have been possible without our coalition of partners and the UN Global Compact.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for a non-business/civil society organization participating in the compact.

Yours Sincerely,



Meredith Adler

Executive Director, Student Energy

Overview of Activities

1. **Building partnerships with businesses and other actors that advocate for transformative change on key environmental issues**

Student Energy delivered (4) unique intergenerational programmes that work with companies, governments, and other organizations to facilitate meaningful, equitable dialogue and collaboration between young people and decision-makers. Often, many young people are not able to participate in some of the key spaces where decisions are made – whether this is at national or international conferences, or on boards and advisory committees. Even when young people are invited to participate, high financial or geographic barriers can limit which youth can access these opportunities. Student Energy designed and facilitated Youth Climate Councils with organizations and institutions that remove the cost-barrier to participation and support youth selected to tackle a real need within the organization while supporting sector leaders to connect with talent, understand youth values, and learn best practices for effective youth engagement.

The partnerships-driven programmes that Student Energy delivered include:

- WSP(UN Global Compact participants) [Youth Advisory Council](#)
- Regional Dialogues & [policy brief](#) with the Leadership Group for Industry Transition
- [Youth Policy Innovation Team](#) for the Global Covenant of Mayors on Climate & Energy
- [Regional Dialogues](#) with the Government of Canada (Natural Resources department) focused on energy and Indigenous sovereignty and Canada's green recovery

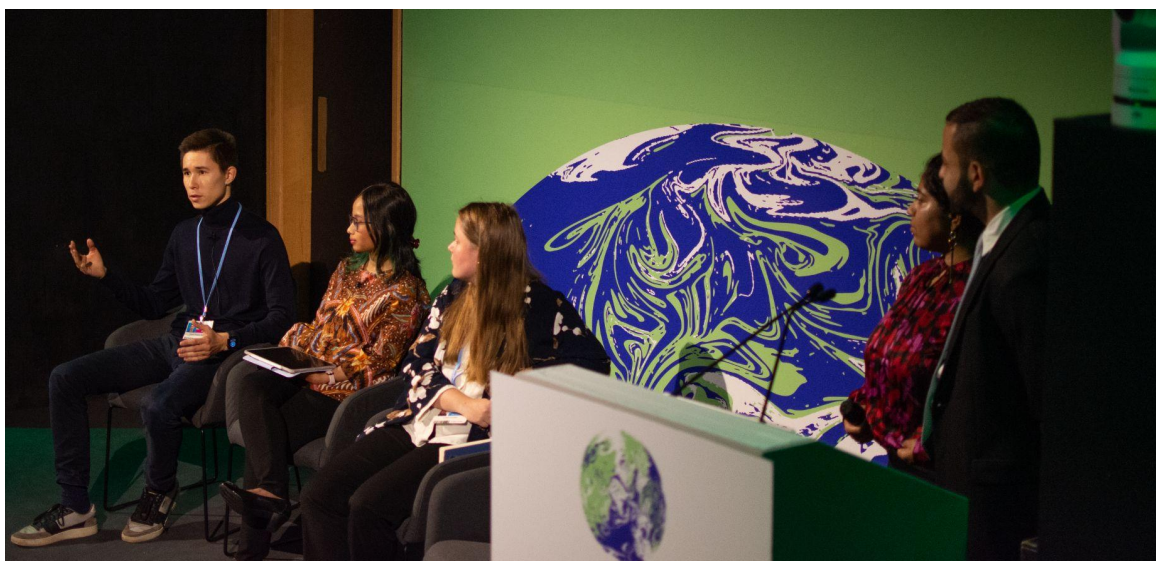
2. **Catalyzing action by actors and UN Global Compact Members by building a data and evidence base that supports sector coordination efforts in youth engagement through the Global Youth Energy Outlook**

At COP26, Student Energy released the first set of data from the Global Youth Energy Outlook, the world's most extensive data set and research initiative that connected over 41,000 young people around the world on their energy transition perspectives in their communities, and is supported by a number of governments, companies, and other actors globally. The project is led by 12 Regional Coordinators and 100 country ambassadors recruited by Student Energy. Initial findings of the data set and more information on the project's methodologies and partnerships can be found [here](#). The final report will be produced in the first quarter of 2023.

3. **Designing accessible programming and engagements for youth across high-level platforms supported and attended by UN Global Compact partners to fill critical gaps in representation for youth at those spaces, a key stakeholder to the Ten Principles**

In the last two years, Student Energy created over (100) opportunities for young leaders around the world and facilitated various engagements for young people to effectively deliver core messaging from their communities. This includes programme opportunities at the following events:

- The 12th Clean Energy Ministerial
- The Vienna Energy Forum
- The Ministerial Forums of the High-level Dialogue on Energy
- The UN High-level Dialogue on Energy
- New York Climate Week
- United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP26
- Energy Action Day
- Powering Past Coal Alliance Summit
- The Sustainable Energy for All Forum
- Powering Partnerships Summit, Canadian Electricity Association
- Cleantech Opportunities in Oil & Gas, CRIN
- RNNR Standing Committee on Natural Resources, House of Commons of Canada



4. Taking actions and commitments to address racial and other social injustices in the climate and environment space

In the climate advocacy space, there is an underlying, and often unnamed issue: While some organizations do advocate for justice and equity as an integral part of a sustainable energy future, there are countless others whose advocacy is limited only to technological and policy solutions to reduce emissions and achieve economic growth. These incomplete approaches aim to address

the climate crisis without explicitly addressing the systemic racism and injustice present in the energy system, in the climate crisis, and in the environmental movement. As Student Energy's vision is to empower young people to create an energy future that is both sustainable and equitable, it's extremely important to start this conversation with our fellow organizations in the energy space.

Student Energy's [Theory of Change](#) outlines our values as an organization, and these values are centered on listening to and empowering young people and embedding equity and climate justice as an integral part of the energy transition. Recognizing that we are often in spaces where we are one of few youth-led organizations represented, raising critical questions on justice and equity in relation to the energy transition and climate change is an important part of our daily work. Here are some immediate and long-term actions we are taking as an organization to ensure that we are also explicitly incorporating anti-racist principles and advocacy to the work that we do:

- We are researching and developing a framework to embed anti-racism and equity into how we design and collaborate on programs with our partners. This framework will serve to increase the accessibility of our programs to BIPOC youth, resourcing for BIPOC youth-led sustainable energy initiatives, and support youth-led work with direct impacts on human rights in energy such as universal access, health and safety, energy in disaster responses, anti-discrimination in energy, community and Indigenous rights, and the relationship between conflict and energy.
- We will be adding additional anti-racism resources to our Communicating Justice and Equity in the Energy Transition training that is a part of staff onboarding. This resource is an introduction to the concepts of energy and climate justice, and explores historical and ongoing inequity across all aspects of the global energy system.
- The impacts of climate change, the economic downturn, and the long-term effects of COVID-19 will be disproportionately felt by BIPOC communities. As we are an organization based in Canada, we will be advocating for Canada's climate plans and COVID-19 recovery efforts to address systemic racial and economic inequity and include plans on how the future clean economy will not just be sustainable, but equitable.
- We will continue to seek out, work with, compensate and recommend Black-led organizations, speakers, and service providers.

5. Delivery of in-demand and partnerships-driven programming to support young people in shaping the future of climate and their communities

Student Energy has significantly expanded its program ecosystem in the last two-years with a focus on young people in OCD recipient countries, and particularly those in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian Subcontinent. Over 1,000 young people are currently waitlisted for Student Energy's accessible

programs as youth globally are more eager than ever to begin building careers and opportunities to address the energy transition in their communities.

Student Energy Chapters: Student Energy Chapters are student-led, post-secondary clubs that take action on energy in their local communities, supported by skill-building and mentorship from Student Energy and collaboration with a global network of Chapters. The result is an ambitious cohort of young people enthusiastic about the future of energy, actively engaging their peers on energy topics, and thinking critically about the complexities of changing the energy system.

Student Energy received expressions of interest from (178) universities and colleges across the world in 2021, with the leading regions of interest being Sub-Saharan Africa (26), Middle East and North Africa (23), the Indian Subcontinent (21), Latin America and the Caribbean (15), and Southeast Asia (8). Student Energy delivered on an extensive communications plan to target regions that predominantly consist of ODA recipient countries. As a result, active Student Energy Chapters grew to (43) universities and colleges globally, and currently service (2485) youth, over 60% of whom are in ODA recipient countries and over 55% of whom are young women. Student Energy Chapters have already engaged over 17,200 young people through community engagement and virtual events focused on the energy transition.

Student Energy Chapter highlights: The Student Energy team at Padjadjaran University in Bandung, Indonesia developed and launched Easy Bike UnPad, a campus based, electric bike sharing platform with installed solar powered charging stations, with the mentorship and support of Student Energy's core team and partner network.

Student Energy Fellowship: Student Energy's pre-career skills development and project training program scaled significantly in 2021 with Denmark's support and saw a total of 643 applicants as young people are racing to the forefront of implementing new solutions in climate and energy. The web-based program delivered 10-months of core clean energy education, coaching, and mentorship, peer-to-peer engagement and hands-on project implementation to over 154 youth across 32 countries and 6 continents.

The program remains to be extremely in demand, with Student Energy's organizational capacity only able to host 23% of qualified applicants, and interest continues to grow the most in Sub-Saharan Africa. Over 50% of the 2021 program's cohort identify as young women. The free-of-charge program removes barriers of entry for passionate youth to get involved with climate action and aims to accelerate diversity, gender equity and Indigenous reconciliation in the energy innovation sector.

Student Energy Fellowship highlights: Team Joules from Puebla, Mexico (team of 5) developed their own agro-waste briquette recipe, tested it for multiple months, finally got it right, acquired/modified their own briquette pressing machine, found a state official who invited them to visit and hand over

the prototype and recipe to a remote region with energy barriers, and are now looking to scale their project.

Student Energy Careers Training: In 2021 Student Energy developed a virtual, energy transition specialist course that will allow young people from ODA recipient countries to grow their energy systems knowledge and expertise needed for careers and jobs in the clean energy sector, regardless of whether they can access formal education through universities. The program was designed by a young program coordinator and e-learning specialist from Sub-Saharan Africa, Olubumni Olajide, in partnership with Student Energy's intersectional equity task force and employer experts that consulted on how the program is addressing emerging and future sector needs in clean energy. The program launched in January 2022 and is currently in its first cohort delivery.

6. Bridging the gap between youth motivation and action through inclusive direct-to-youth financing to enable transformative potential of young people's environmental and climate solutions

In June 2021, at the Ministerial Forums of the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy, Student Energy launched its [UN Energy Compact](#) that commits to raising \$150 million in the next decade to support 10,000 youth-led clean energy projects through a direct-to-youth funding mechanism paired with capacity-building and industry-aligned entrepreneurial training.

The initiative will support Student Energy's network in ODA recipient countries through a targeted stream of funding support. The Youth Solutions Movements was developed through Student Energy's unique youth empowerment model, meaning that it was co-created with young people and utilized data from the Youth Outlook's research to address the critical needs of young people in ODA recipient countries that are driving the clean energy transition.

Check out Student Energy's [2021 Annual Report](#) and our [website](#). Please get in touch with the contacts below for any partnership opportunities.

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