

Student Energy's 2024 Communication on Engagement (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 27 April 2022

To: 27 April 2024

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Executive Director

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.

Over the past two years, Student Energy has continued to scale as one of the leading global organizations delivering ongoing post-secondary engagement, sector literacy, and skill development for youth to contribute to the energy sector in their communities. We continue to support our growing network of over 50,000 youth from more than 120 countries through the implementation of innovative new programs and a steadfast commitment to our youth empowerment values. Our organization has seen many achievements over the past two years, many of which would not have been possible without the support of our coalition partners and the UN Global Compact at large.

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 or civil society organization participating in the compact.

Sincerely,



Helen Watts
Executive Director, Student Energy

Part II & III. Description of Actions & Measurement of Outcomes

(1) Expanding on our portfolio of impactful, in-demand, and accessible programming to empower global youth to take action on energy

Over the past two years, Student Energy has focused significantly on expanding our programming in key regions, empowering a growing number of global youth to take action on the energy crisis within their own communities. In 2022 alone, Student Energy launched two new projects, Student Energy Guided Projects and Student Energy Career Training. Last year, we also launched three innovative research projects under our Research & Youth Engagement portfolio, reached 49 active Student Energy Chapters across 29 countries, and hosted the 2023 Student Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi, the world's largest youth-led event on energy. With these achievements, we remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering on our core programs and youth empowerment values.

Implemented in 2023, Student Energy now leverages a robust framework that sets out standard measures for a holistic look at the impact and outcomes of our youth programming organization-wide. All of our programs must integrate the measurement of these outcomes into their evaluation processes using the defined indicators and consistently report on them. Beyond those included in the framework, programs may also measure additional outcomes or utilize additional indicators as they see fit. We collect our data through surveys, story submissions, and interviews about participants' experiences post-graduation.

These standard impact measurements include the following.

1. Increased knowledge and understanding of the energy system
2. Increased professional skills
3. Increased confidence and/or empowerment
4. Increased ability to initiate and implement a project
5. Increased connections to peers and sense of community
6. Increased intergenerational connections and collaboration

Career Training

Student Energy Career Training is a four-month cohort-based program with a focus on skill development in policy, finance, and project management that aims to fill the emerging gap between a large contingent of youth seeking to transform our energy system but lacking access to necessary baseline training and skills required for entry-level roles and internships. The program primarily offers a comprehensive introduction to the current energy system, decarbonization pathways, energy economics and policy, the core value of which is to support young people with applied skills training related to managing and executing a project on a real-world energy problem.

In 2023, Student Energy supported the completion of the program's third and fourth cohorts, the latter garnering over 1,093 applications, the most significant volume to date. These two cohorts welcomed 53 and 81 participants, respectively, forming eight and 12 unique teams. Both cohorts received graduation rates of above 87% and awarded 50 graduates with distinction awards for their exemplary

participation in the program. Project partners comprised a diverse mix of energy organizations and non-profits who supported participants through project delivery.

Chapters Network

Student Energy Chapters are university and college-level clubs run by students that allow students to leverage Student Energy's organizational knowledge and brand to take action on energy in their local communities. The program was created to unite youth within local contexts and globally while building long-lasting communities that facilitate meaningful youth engagement within the energy space. Since 2022, this network has grown to 49 active chapters across 29 countries, which engage over 30,000 people annually.

Energy System Map

Student Energy's Energy System Map is a dynamic, freely accessible energy education tool that brings energy information to young people in a fun and digestible way. The interactive map includes short write-ups introducing young people to fundamental energy system topics, paired with animated videos and deep-dive resources. The Energy System Map continues serving as one of Student Energy's flagship offerings, reaching nearly 30,000 individuals in 2023.

Fellowship Program

The Student Energy Fellowship is an 8-month online program designed to provide participants with leadership skills training, energy knowledge, connections to industry leaders and young professionals, and the hands-on experience young people need to take action on climate. The program includes peer learning, skills development, mentoring sessions, and networking with Fellows worldwide.

The program's 2023 call for applications garnered a record-breaking 1,000+ applications, and the fourth cohort — now in its fifth year — launched in February 2024. Last year alone, Fellows undertook over 150 energy projects investigating innovative solutions related to energy access, efficiency, grid optimization, community outreach and education, and more.

Guided Projects

In 2022, Student Energy launched the Guided Projects program, which provides entrepreneurial training, project development assistance, and seed funding for youth-led clean energy projects and enterprises. Student Energy's newest program, Guided Project, adopts a direct-to-youth funding model that breaks down traditional barriers to clean energy entrepreneurship and project development. Participants (ages 18 to 30) engage in a ten-month program, including two months of intensive coursework followed by four to eight months of project execution, emphasizing easily replicable clean energy projects.

With funding support from both public and private actors, participants from the first two cohorts of the program have collectively installed over 23 kilowatts (kW) of solar capacity, mitigating an estimated 16 tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions annually while providing new or improved energy access to over 2,000 individuals. This was achieved through seven projects in Canada, Peru, and Kenya.

ImaGENation

Designed by the SevenGen Council and supported by Indigenous Clean Energy and Student Energy, the ImaGENation program creates space for Indigenous youth to imagine a sustainable future for their community and the opportunity to transform that vision into meaningful project-based action. The program's first cohort, which wrapped in December of 2023, selected and enrolled 12 teams of Indigenous youth (ages 18 to 30) from across Canada into an 18-month program that provided a culturally embedded ecosystem of support to plan and implement their clean energy project idea. Each team received project-specific mentorship, coaching, cultural guidance, and up to \$50,000 per project to support their goals.

2022 SevenGen Indigenous Youth Energy Summit

The SevenGen Indigenous Youth Energy Summit aims to increase awareness, create pathways to education, and foster sustainable partnership development between Indigenous youth, communities, and organizations as it relates to Indigenous ideologies of the earth. These events offer multiple days of dialogues, panels, networking sessions, workshops, breakout sessions, dinners, and more between youth and professionals from within the energy space.

The second SevenGen Indigenous Youth Energy Summit, a collaborative event between Student Energy and SevenGen Energy, occurred in November 2022 in Whitecap Dakota First Nation (Saskatchewan). Canada's largest Indigenous youth-led summit on climate change, the event welcomed over 200 First Nations, Inuit, and Métis youth from every Canadian province and territory. The program was an inclusive environment fostering kinship systems with meaningful discussions and workshops encouraging delegate, speaker, government, and industry collaboration towards problem-solving and program building through two-eyed seeing approaches.

2023 International Student Energy Summit

Taking place in the United Arab Emirates between November 29 and December 1, 2023, the 2023 Student Energy Summit served as the world's largest youth-led conference on energy, providing a transformative space for young people to collaborate on energy solutions with industry leaders. The event brought together over 650 youth leaders from 130 countries within a multidisciplinary forum, fostering connections between delegates and industry leaders, government, and interdisciplinary innovators. The 2023 Student Energy Summit was hosted by New York University Abu Dhabi with critical sponsorship from Bezos Earth Fund, the most significant individual philanthropic commitment to fight climate change and protect nature.

Since 2009, the Student Energy Summit has been hosted biannually in various cities around the globe. At the margins of COP28, the 2023 edition was held in the Middle East for the first time, highlighting the success story and vision of the United Arab Emirates' energy transition. The strategic timing and location of the 2023 Student Energy Summit further provided youth with the unique opportunity to engage in a critical high-level international conference on climate change.

The 2023 Student Energy Summit was remarkable in its commitment to mobilizing a diverse portfolio of youth, with 60% of the delegation hailing from developing countries, 55% of the delegation identifying as female, and 55% of the delegation experiencing an international conference for the first time.

(2) Advocating for transformative change and prioritizing youth inclusion on global stages and within critical decision-making spaces

Part of the transition to a sustainable energy future is recognizing the need for innovative and collaborative human resources to design the tools needed. When institutions include youth voices and agency in their operating model, they acknowledge that innovative ideas and collaborative solutions are vital to creating a sustainable energy future.

In 2023, Student Energy supported a number of youth delegations to attend events spanning the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, New York Climate Week, the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum, and COP28. Through these gatherings, youth had the opportunity to meaningfully engage with global industry actors and leaders in the climate and energy space while delivering core messages from their communities. Student Energy staff also participated in an advisory capacity in four committees where we aimed to amplify youth perspectives on energy, including the Youth Energy Transition Commission, led by Sustainable Energy for All, and the Global Alliance for Sustainable Energy, led by the Enel Foundation.

(3) Inspiring action by global actors through youth-led and data-backed research projects that address data gaps in the energy sector and support sector coordination efforts in youth engagement

Since 2022, Student Energy has undertaken several research projects driven by strong public and private sector partnerships, which aim to amplify opportunities for youth to take action and work within the energy space.

In 2022, Student Energy and the Global Covenant of Mayors on Climate & Energy and Melbourne Centre for Cities at the University of Melbourne partnered to develop a **Youth Impact Framework**. The Youth Impact Framework is a tool with 15 outcomes and indicators that allow youth to measure and communicate the impacts of their work with all levels of government and industry leaders. It can also be used by decision-makers to understand the tangible contributions of youth-led work. From GHG emissions reduction to green jobs created and increased civic engagement of youth, the framework's 15 selected "impacts" represent some of the most urgent actions needed to accelerate the pace of the energy transition and climate action. This framework is designed to be particularly useful at the nexus of climate, energy, youth leadership, and cities and local governments, catalyzing collaboration and partnership to tackle the climate crisis and address myriad socioeconomic challenges.

The **Energy Transition Skills Project** led by Student Energy, in partnership with Ørsted, explores what is most important to young people (ages 18 to 35) when looking for employment and what barriers they face to entering the energy transition jobs labour market. By understanding the needs and aspirations of young people, the project provides insight to young people, organizations, companies, governments, and other energy actors on how they can advance youth skill development and employment in the energy transition.

Since the launch of Student Energy's keystone research project at COP26 in 2021, the **Global Youth Energy Outlook** has been adapted and leveraged by global stakeholders (the Governments of

Denmark and Sweden, the Global Covenant of Mayors, the SDG7 Youth Constituency, and more) as an essential tool for informing and mobilizing local policies and investments centred on youth engagement in the energy transition.

Lastly, the **Youth Energy Narratives Council**, which launched in 2023 under Student Energy's Research and Youth Engagement portfolio, is a collaborative project between Student Energy and the Climate Emergency Collaboration Group which aims to explore the status of youth engagement in the climate and energy space through creative storytelling and youth-led research. The Council consists of a team of five young storytellers (ages 18 to 30) who each picked a unique story to explore through creative media and have been developing these stories through supplementary interviews and research, with the end goal of producing a creative actionable, evidence-based, youth-led set of recommendations for Student Energy's partner organizations in March 2024.

(4) Catalyzing global partnerships to enable continued support for youth-led work on key climate and energy issues

Over the past two years, Student Energy has worked to strengthen our global partnerships to enable us to continue supporting youth-led work while amplifying youth voices in global decision-making spaces. In particular, Student Energy collaborated with new partners last year, including the Bezos Earth Fund as the lead sponsor of the Student Energy Summit and the Global Alliance for People and the Planet as the lead sponsor of the Leaders Forum just preceding the Student Energy Summit.

Through our program ecosystem, we continue to foster meaningful partnerships with industry actors that advocate for transformative change on essential climate and energy issues while encouraging them to internalize the value of working with you. In 2023, Student Energy's Career Training Program initiated 13 partnerships spanning corporations and non-profit organizations, including Clean Technology Hub, New Energy Nexus Vietnam, Sustainable Energy for All, Okra Solar, and C40 Cities.

Student Energy continues to uphold our **Partnership Principles** and operate in a way that is transparent, responsive to and reflective of youth demands. Additionally, we value collaboration with and feedback from like-minded partners to help inform and measure the efficacy of our work and strive to contribute to an ecosystem of actors who can create enabling environments for youth participation in clean energy.

(5) Expanding direct-to-youth financing solutions to support young energy entrepreneurs and leaders

In June 2021, at the Ministerial Forums of the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy, Student Energy launched its **UN Energy Compact** that committed 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. Through this compact, Student Energy aims to catalyze meaningful change in the lives of young people by providing them with the skills, tools, and resources to create better livelihoods, obtain and sustain jobs, support their communities, and feel empowered to navigate their future.

In the first two years since its launch, Student Energy has (1) unlocked \$8 million in funding for clean energy education and entrepreneurship, (2) supported projects that have provided new electricity access to 40+ people, (3) supported the generation of 325 megawatts (MW) of additional renewable energy capacity, (4) provided ten people and counting with new and improved clean cooking services, and (5) delivered improved electricity access to 15,000 people.

Additionally, our 2023 Student Energy Summit aimed to catalyze action and entrepreneurship by supporting three youth-led clean energy projects in priority regions through training and funding. These were selected from an initial 40 proposals at the Innovation Jam program. The 2022 SevenGen Summit similarly featured an Innovation Jam program, which saw the presentation of multiple participant-identified and ideated sustainable energy projects, where five applicants were ultimately selected to initiate the planning stage of their project through Student Energy's Fellowship program.

Building on our collaborative relationship with the Climate Emergency Collaboration Group, last year, our two organizations came together at COP28 to facilitate a collaborative roundtable event, uniting youth and philanthropic actors to address the challenges and opportunities inherent in engaging youth-led organizations in the energy sector. These conversations emphasized the importance of flexible, unrestricted funding to support the long-term sustainability of youth organizations while facilitating more significant participation in global decision-making spaces, dismantling exclusionary barriers present within current grant-making processes, and recognizing the unique needs and challenges facing youth, prioritizing support for youth efforts across ages, geographies, and backgrounds. We hope these findings will catalyze broader gatherings and youth-philanthropy engagements to spur the global energy transition through innovative and impact-driven youth initiatives.

(6) Implementing equity measures across our programs and operations

Student Energy works to proactively advance equity worldwide and within our organization, recognizing that the inclusion of underrepresented groups in clean energy is critical to achieving the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. Since 2022, we have most notably introduced new translation features and internet accessibility updates to our website and implemented recommendations from our Intersectional Equity Taskforce. These recommendations included providing anti-racism and equity training for all staff members, embedding equity mechanisms into our programming with an emphasis on global perspectives, and implementing organizational goal-setting and program evaluation systems that include our Theory of Change, youth engagement principles, and alignment with Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

You can access Student Energy's most recent Annual Report on our [website](#). Please reach out to the contacts below with any questions or partnership opportunities.

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