



## SES 2026 SELF-FUNDRAISING GUIDE FOR DELEGATES

*Practical strategies to help you secure support for attending the Student Energy Summit in Manaus, Brazil*

Congratulations on being selected as a delegate for the Student Energy Summit (SES) 2026! Your acceptance reflects your leadership, your commitment to clean energy, and your potential to represent your community on a global stage.

Many delegates each year successfully secure support to attend SES by combining creativity, persistence, and clear communication. This guide will help you build a fundraising plan, identify potential supporters, and confidently engage universities, employers, governments, and community organizations.

**You are not alone in this process. Thousands of youth delegates around the world have done this successfully, and so can you.**

### 1. Start with a Clear Budget

Before you approach any potential funder, prepare a clear understanding of the support you are seeking. A simple budget increases trust and helps funders understand your needs.

Your SES 2026 budget may include:

- International flights
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance
- Local transportation not included in SES daily shuttles
- Meals not included in SES activities
- Additional expenses

A clear budget is the foundation for every successful fundraising strategy.

### 2. Identify your most Promising Sources of Support

Many delegates secure funding by reaching out to several types of supporters in their community. The most successful paths for SES delegates are:

#### **A. Support from Your University or Academic Institution**



Universities often provide funding for students to attend international leadership programs and conferences.

Who to contact:

- Faculty advisors or professors
- Department heads or supervisors
- International Programs / Global Mobility offices
- Research centers in sustainability or energy
- Student Affairs or Development offices
- Student unions
- DEI offices
- Scholarship or bursary departments

Explain how attending SES 2026 will benefit your studies, expand your knowledge, and contribute to your university community.

## **B. Support from Your Employer or Internship Host**

If you are employed or have recently interned, your employer may be willing to sponsor your participation.

Why employers say yes:

- SES strengthens your leadership, communication, and energy-transition knowledge.
- You bring back insights and networks valuable to your organization.
- Supporting youth aligns with many organizations' sustainability goals.
- Employers gain visibility when you represent them internationally.

Support may include professional development funds, training budgets, or partial travel reimbursement.

## **C. Local, Regional, and National Funding Opportunities**

Many countries offer small travel grants or youth mobility funds.

- Examples of where to look:
- Local government youth development programs
- National science, technology, or innovation agencies
- Climate and sustainability NGOs
- Community foundations
- Rotary Clubs or Lions Clubs
- Regional development agencies
- Embassies or high commissions



Some examples:

- [UNESCO Global Youth Grants Scheme \(GYGS\)](#)
- [The Impact Job Scholarships Platform](#)
- [The UN Youth Decade Taskforce Microgrants](#)
- [European Union Erasmus+ Youth Exchanges](#)
- [Latin American Youth Climate Scholarship \(LAYCS\)](#)
- [Youth Climate Justice Fund \(YCJF\)](#)
- [Global Greengrants Fund](#)

### 3. Build Your Outreach Plan

Successful fundraising requires reaching out widely and consistently. Your outreach list may include:

- Professors and supervisors
- Department heads
- Employers or internship hosts
- Local businesses
- NGOs or youth organizations
- Community leaders
- Local philanthropies

Expect to reach out to 10–20 contacts. Persistence is normal and necessary.

If you're stuck:

- ☐ Schedule a call or meeting with your advisors or biggest supports, whether it's a professor, mentor, family friend, or employer.
- ☐ If you don't have an existing relationship with potential sponsors, send a cold email or message! Think about leaders and people in your community or broader networks who you admire.
- ☐ Try reaching out to potential individuals or organizations through social media platforms like LinkedIn.
- ☐ Sit down with them for a chat about the type of support you're seeking, it is always possible for them to show their willingness to support you themselves or provide you with contacts to do so.

### 4. How to Tell Your Story

Funders say yes when they understand:

1. Why SES matters to you.



2. Why you were selected.
3. Why attending benefits your community or institution.
4. What financial support you are requesting.

## 5. Sample Outreach Email

*Subject: Request for Support to Represent [University/Organization] at the Student Energy Summit 2026*

*Dear [Name],*

*I hope you are well. My name is [Your Name], and I am a [student/young professional] in [department/organization]. I am pleased to share that I have been selected as a delegate for the Student Energy Summit (SES) 2026 in Manaus, Brazil.*

*SES is the world's largest youth-led energy conference, connecting young leaders from over 100 countries. I am seeking financial support to cover my travel and participation costs. Attending SES will allow me to build new skills, strengthen my leadership, and bring valuable insights back to our [department/community/team].*

*The total cost for participation is approximately [amount], and I am requesting [full/partial] support. I would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss this with you.*

*Warm regards,  
[Your Name]*

## 6. Follow-up Strategy

- Send a polite follow-up after 7 days.
- Send a second follow-up after another 7 days.
- Always remain professional, appreciative, and concise.
- If someone says no, thank them and ask if they can refer you to someone else.

💬 Keep in mind that many people you are reaching out to are very busy. It is often appropriate to email people 2-3 times if you have not yet received a response. A first follow up typically occurs 7 days after the initial outreach. Always remember to **be polite and professional** when following up and asking for support, and to respect the time of those you're engaging with.

**Don't be afraid to ask questions** to learn about their engagement in sustainability, climate action, and energy challenges. By following these tips and utilizing the right platforms, you'll be on your way to securing the perfect sponsorship partnership for your trip! Remember, building a relationship with potential sponsors



should be a fun and exciting process. By showing them why you're the perfect match and demonstrating your passion for your initiative, you'll leave no doubts that your trip is worth their investment.

Fundraising is not just a way to reach SES: it is a leadership skill and a meaningful opportunity to build support within your community.

We believe in you, and we cannot wait to welcome you to SES 2026.