

For immediate release September 1, 2020

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San Jose Student Among 2020 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Teen Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Ishan Goyal, a 15 year-old from San Jose, California, is one of seventeen young environmental activists from across the globe honored by Action for Nature (AFN) as a 2020 International Young Eco-Hero, an award that recognizes eco-conscious youth aged 8 to 16 for their creative initiatives aimed at tackling critical environmental challenges.

Awarded annually, these outstanding young people from across the globe are selected by a panel of independent judges, including experts in environmental science, biology, and education. For the past 17 years, the International Young Eco-Hero Awards have honored global youth in two categories – 8 to 12 years old and 13 to 16 years old – who are taking important steps to solve tough environmental problems. Since 2003, Action for Nature has recognized more than 275 young people from over 30 countries and 25 U.S. states.

Ishan received an honorable mention in the 13-16 year-old age category for his project, Pin & Post Wildfire Prevention.

Ishan Goyal saw live news coverage of wildfires raging across his state that were killing innocent people, destroying property, and polluting the environment. Knowing that many of these fires are sparked by malfunctions in the power grid, Ishan developed Pin & Post, a mobile app to simplify the process of reporting potentially hazardous vegetation and wires near power lines and utility poles.

"Kids like Ishan have shown that the next generation is refusing to simply stand on the sidelines but instead is turning its passion for helping the planet into projects that have tangible, positive impacts on the environment now," said Beryl Kay, president of Action for Nature, an international non-profit organization that encourages young people to nurture a love and respect for Earth's natural resources and to take personal action to better their environments. "Young activists like Ishan are shaping the world around them and inspiring other young people to take action to protect our Earth."



"When I started the project, I had no idea that a high school kid could actually make a change. I have now learned that youth have immense power and can actually make a difference," said Ishan Goyal.

To read more about Ishan's work, visit <u>actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2020-awards/#ishan</u>.

To learn more about this year's International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit <u>actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2020-awards</u>.

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Action for Nature (AFN) is an international non-profit organization based in San Francisco, California, that encourages young people to nurture a love and respect for Earth's natural resources and to take personal action to better their environments.