

For immediate release:  
October 4, 2022

## **San Jose Teen Among 2022 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners**

### ***Local Student Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems***

San Francisco – Vedant Janapaty, a 16 year-old from San Jose, California, is one of sixteen young environmental activists from across the globe to receive a 2022 International Young Eco-Hero Award, announced Action For Nature today. This award honors eco-conscious youth ages 8 to 16 who are taking crucial steps to solve tough environmental problems.

Winners of the International Young Eco-Hero Award are selected by a panel of independent judges, including experts in environmental science, biology, and education. Since 2003, Action For Nature has recognized more than 341 Eco-Heroes from over 31 countries and 26 U.S. states.

Vedant won Honorable Mention in the 13-16 year-old category for his Fire Prevention project.

Devastating mega-fires in California have destroyed 4.5 million acres of land, released toxic fumes, and significantly strained fire agencies and local communities. Vedant Janapaty is working to identify the increased risk factors that can cause mega-fires that put California communities at risk. His goal is to identify geographical areas with a high propensity for fire damage using satellite data and machine learning models and advocate action for mitigating such damage through proactive land management. After learning that the risk of fire damage is increased when non-native plants are present, Vedant started working with environmental agencies such as Grassroots Ecology and Elkhorn Slough Foundation to advocate for the speedy removal of non-native species from high fire-prone areas.

“Young people like Vedant have shown that the next generation of leaders is here, and they are taking action across the globe now to address the climate crisis and solve local, national, and global environmental challenges,” said Beryl Kay, President of Action For Nature, an international non-profit organization that encourages young people to nurture a love and respect for the Earth and to take personal action to improve the environment. “The projects that young people like Vedant have created are having real and important impacts on their communities, helping to solve global climate challenges, and are inspiring others – including adults – to do what they can to help.”

“I have family and friends who have lost houses and property in the recent fires,” said Vedant. “If we can predict where fires may happen, we can take proactive steps that can reduce the potential of fires and save lives.”

To learn more about Vedant’s work, visit [linkedin.com/in/vedant-janapaty](https://www.linkedin.com/in/vedant-janapaty).

To learn more about this year’s International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit [www.actionfornature.org](https://www.actionfornature.org).

###

*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 protect the environment.*