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Greenville Teen Among 2022 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Student Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – David Yoon, a 16 year-old from Greenville, North Carolina, 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.

David won Honorable Mention in the 13-16 year-old category for his project, "Plastic Free NC."

In 2019, David Yoon founded Plastic Free NC, a youth-led organization dedicated to combating multiple environmental challenges through mentorship and community service. Over the course of just three years, Plastic Free NC has mentored more than 250 youth, assisted in the donation of 30,000 pounds of produce to more than 400 at-risk families, raised about \$2,500 for student-led environmental initiatives, and spread more than 625 stickers across the country to raise environmental awareness.

"Young people like David 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 David 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've experienced first-hand the effects of plastic pollution on our environment, so I understood the need for change – and became that change," said David.

To read more about David's work, visit [google.com/plasticfreenc](https://www.google.com/plasticfreenc).

To learn more about this year's International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit www.actionfornature.org.

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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 protect the environment.