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## **Naperville Teen Among 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners**

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

San Francisco – Nitya Jakka, a 16 year-old from Naperville, IL, United States is one of seventeen young environmental activists from across the globe to receive a 2023 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. Nitya won an Honorable Mention in this year's competition.

Winners of the International Young Eco-Hero Award are selected by a panel of independent judges, including experts in environmental science, biology, and education. For the past 20 years, Action For Nature has recognized 339 Eco-Heroes from 27 countries and 32 U.S. states.

Nitya, a passionate social and environmental activist, developed Terraclu, a website and sensor system that addresses the issue of food waste through better climate-controlled transportation and storage. Terraclu predicts ethylene output levels of crops and recommends optimal temperature and humidity levels to ensure they are delivered at ideal ripeness while optimizing energy use. Nitya aims to move beyond the development phase and to bring Terraclu to market next year.

"Nitya and all of this year's young climate champions are proving one thing loud and clear: the next generation of leaders has arrived, and they're unleashing their power on a global scale to tackle the climate crisis head-on," said Beryl Kay, president of Action for Nature. "The incredible accomplishments of Nitya and our other winners are more than just isolated projects – they're changing lives and transforming communities for the better."

"I'm proud of myself for being able to push through some very difficult barriers to get the information needed about the food and transportation industry to understand how to lower waste," said Nitya Jakka.

For high-resolution photos of Nitya and to learn more about all of this year's International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit <https://actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2023-winners>.

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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.*