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Pearland Teen Among 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Student Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Rahul Vijayan, a 16 year-old from Pearland, TX, 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. Rahul 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.

Rahul founded Farm to Tray to improve access to fresh, green organic produce in schools in Houston and beyond by introducing on-site hydroponic farming, an efficient water-based gardening technique that works well in urban environments. Rahul educates elementary and middle school students in his school district about sustainable gardening, and also provides them with microgreen kits for hands-on plant-growing experiences. Following its success in Texas, the project has already expanded to schools in California and New York.

"Rahul 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 Rahul and our other winners are more than just isolated projects – they're changing lives and transforming communities for the better."

"The lack of easy, regular access to fresh, organic produce is an issue plaguing schools across the country," said Rahul Vijayan. "My project seeks to reimagine childhood nutrition in American public schools one meal at a time."

To learn more about Rahul's work, visit www.Farm2tray.com.

For high-resolution photos of Rahul 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.