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Seoul Student Among 2021 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Student Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Cherry Sung, a 14 year-old from Seoul, South Korea, is one of 25 young environmental activists from across the globe honored by Action For Nature (AFN) as a 2021 International Young Eco-Hero, an award that recognizes 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 300 Eco-Heroes from over 30 countries and 25 U.S. states.

Cherry won 2nd Place in the 8-14 year-old category for her project, Greener is Cleaner.

In 2018, Cherry suffered from severe anorexia nervosa and was hospitalized for three weeks. During that time, her only source of outside information was television documentaries – most of them about the environment and threats like plastic pollution, wildfires, and climate change – and Cherry reached a tipping point. In response, Cherry Sung started Greener is Cleaner, a youth-led organization focused on three specific areas to create change: economic markets, public policies, and citizen action. Since March 2020, Cherry's organization has successfully convinced organizations – from beverage companies to her own high school – to eliminate the use of plastic and switch to biodegradable materials.

"Kids like Cherry have shown that the next generation of leaders is here, and they are refusing to wait to solve the world's most pressing 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 these young people created will not only have real, positive impacts on their communities, they will also help solve global climate challenges and inspire others – no matter what age – to consider what they can do to help."

"By starting small and taking action sustainably, I learned that 'people power' fuels the movement for change," said Cherry Sung.

To read more about Cherry's work, check out the project website at greeneriscleaner.org.

To learn more about this year's International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2021-awards.

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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.