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Long Beach Teen Among 2022 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Student Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Diana Michaelson, a 16 year-old from Long Beach, 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.

Diana won the Shimon Schwarzschild Award for her project, Long Beach Green Schools Campaign.

The new Shimon Schwarzschild Award, named for the founder of Action For Nature, honors a young environmentalist and activist who is a visionary thinker, as Shimon was.

After a long-fought campaign that she launched in 2020, Diana persuaded the Long Beach Unified School District in California to adopt a resolution to implement 100% clean energy by 2030, committing the district to a transition off fossil fuels. But success didn't happen overnight, and it wasn't easy. Diana organized other students, reached out to some of the most powerful people in the district for support, obtained petition signatures, secured coalition partners, and gained community support.

"Young people like Diana 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 Diana 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 want my kids to one day experience the magic of nature and the tide pools like I did. I want them to watch the crabs skitter across the rocks and see the sea slugs grazing for bits of algae. And the only way they will ever be able to see this is if we take action *now*," said Diana. "We all understand the importance of clean energy and need to work together to figure out the most logical approach."

To read more about Diana's work, visit polygsc.com.

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.