

Action for Nature's Eco Awards Recognize 3 Indian Americans

By a Staff Reporter

Action for Nature recently announced the winners of its annual International Young Eco-Hero Awards and three Indian American boys earned honorable mentions while one Indian-origin girl took second place.

The awards are given to students between the ages of 8 and 16 in recognition of their environmental achievements. Winners, selected by a panel of experts in environmental science, biology and environmental health, receive an undisclosed cash prize and a certificate.

Aarushree Nair was the lone prize winner, coming in second in the competition's 13-16 age group.

Nair, of Haryana, India, earned the award for her design of the Blu Pak. Action for Nature describes Nair as a young thinker who looks out at the world to consider how problems can be solved.

She designed a biodegradable container that can hold 350 ml of clean drinking water and has a packet of oral rehydration salts pasted on the side, after learning that many young children were dying each year due to the lack



Aarushree Nair, of Haryana, India, took second place in the 13-16 age group in Action for Nature's 2015 International Young Eco-Hero awards. (Action for Nature photos)

of clean drinking water.

The Blu Pak, as Nair calls it, has a small beak shaped outlet so that the fluid can easily be administered to infants. It can also be adapted to address malnutrition. She has also received a design patent for it.

Pusapaty, 16, of Texas, who received honorable mention in the 13-16 age group, realized the importance of recycling, according to Action for Nature.

He recognized the problem people have understanding what can be recycled and how, and felt the process needed to be streamlined.



Indian American Sai Sameer Pusapaty, of Texas, received an honorable mention in the 13-16 age group in Action for Nature's 2015 Eco-Hero awards.

In response to this problem, Pusapaty developed tools for his community to make recycling easier and more efficient by using everyday technology to encourage people to recycle efficiently and reduce waste.

The Indian American teen developed a mobile app called Recycle Buddy for his community which can scan a UPC or QR code and display the recycling information. It can also perform generic lookups for disposal information based on the material and the item type.

Sisodiya, 16, of Connecticut, another honorable mention win-



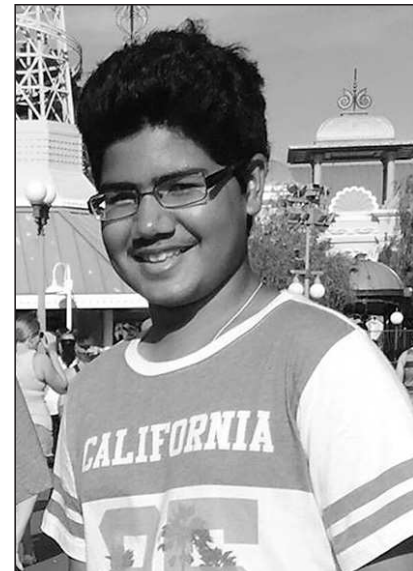
Anuj Sisodiya, of Connecticut, received an honorable mention in the 13-16 age group in Action for Nature's 2015 International Young Eco-Hero Awards.

ner as Pasapaty, recognized during the winter months in his neighborhood that people were leaving their decoration lights on during the day. As a way to resolve the energy wasting issue, he created a project that encouraged the use of an electrical light timer to prevent lights and lighting displays from being left on for extended hours.

He used social media, his personal website and public canvassing, as well as booths at grocery stores to distribute free electrical light timers to help save energy across town.

Sisodiya formed a team of volunteers at his school to help with the effort. Volunteers devoted more than 500 hours of service time, and Sisodiya also worked with town leaders, energy company program managers and vendors to effectively execute his project.

His project distributed 250 electrical timers. It's estimated that the project had the potential to save about one million-kilowatt hours of power, preventing



Anirudh Suri, of California, received an honorable mention in the 13-16 age group in Action for Nature's 2015 Eco-Hero Awards.

up to 1.3 million pounds of carbon dioxide being released into the environment.

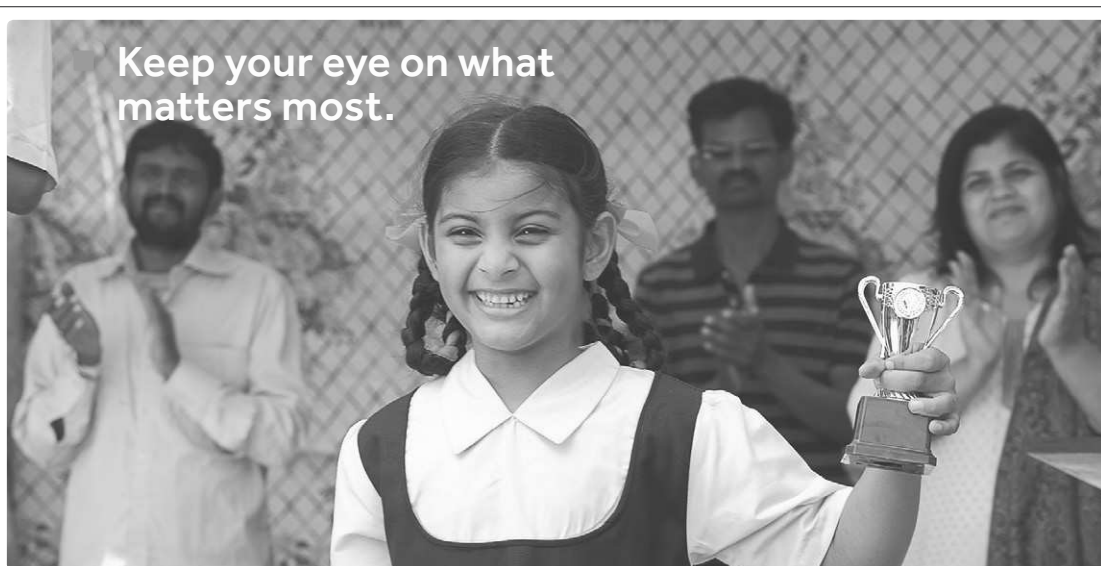
Suri, 14, of California, developed a successful recycling program in his community to help rid the world of battery waste, earning an honorable mention in the 13-16 age category. With the help of his school principal, Suri developed the One Cell program.

He purchased envelopes for collecting batteries, customized them, and sent them home with students to return with all the used batteries inside their homes. The Indian American began the program when he was just 9 years old and five years later the program continues to grow.

In the past three years, One Cell has collected more than 1,100 pounds of batteries.

Suri hopes to get at least 15 schools participating before he reaches the 10th grade. He has also applied for grants to help support the program.

The Eco-Hero award winners will be honored at a reception in San Francisco Oct. 24.



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