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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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PLANET FORWARD ANNOUNCES FINALISTS OF STORYFEST COMPETITION

12 FINALISTS ARE IN THE RUNNING TO WIN TRIP TO THE U.N.

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Planet Forward announces final 12 competitors for Storyfest 2016 competition.

Planet Forward invited college students from across the world to submit their ideas on urban sustainability innovations. Submissions included blog posts, infographics, images and videos that were featured on the Planet Forward website and social media platforms.

This year's finalists are:

- **Hannah Abell**, Purdue University, "VertiKale"
- **Eric Abramson**, The George Washington University, "Sky High: Rooftop Farming and Urban Sustainability"
- **Andre Carter and R'Myni Watson**, Tougaloo College-Jackson State University, "Saving Our Farms, Saving Our Families"
- **Ilana Creinin, Danielle Baglivo and Sophie Martin**, The George Washington University, "Rooftop Roots: Helping a Community Grow Through Its Garden"
- **Connor Farry**, The George Washington University, "DC Streetcar: Washington's Answer to a Surging Urban Population"
- **Jesse Gurney**, The George Washington University, "Blooming Biosolids"

- **Sophie Kaplan**, The George Washington University, "Composting: An Urban Option"
- **Yuval Lev**, The George Washington University, "11th Street Bridge Park"
- **Halley Rose Meslin and Natsuko Mazany**, Indiana University, "We Photographed Ugly Food to Challenge Wasteful Beauty Standards"
- **Javier F. Ponce**, Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (laaC), "Smart Floating Farms"
- **Kira Sommer and Sara Merken**, The George Washington University, "Fighting Food Waste: The Food Recovery Network"
- **Shelby Thomas**, The University of Florida, "To Reverse Global Warming"

These finalists were selected by the Planet Forward editorial team, and now head to a panel of four expert judges: Christian Amolsch from Gensler, David Enders formerly of VICE Media, Sommer Mathis from CityLab, and Betty Hudson from Hudson & Associates.

The winners will be announced at Planet Forward Summit on Sustainable Cities. The three grand prizewinners will receive \$500 and an all expenses paid trip to New York City to visit the U.N. Headquarters and share their innovation stories with development experts from around the world.

The Planet Forward Summit on Sustainable Cities will be held April 21-22 on George Washington University's campus. The Summit will engage a new dialogue on our future cities, featuring mayors, public and private sector leaders, journalists, academics, students, innovators and entrepreneurs. During the two-day Summit in our Nation's capital, we will discover and discuss the stories, innovations and people who will transform our cities in the coming decades. More information about the Summit can be found at planetforward.org.

Planet Forward is an organization out of George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs that engages young people and innovators in search of solutions to the biggest challenges facing our planet. We use Web, video, social media, television and events to empower new voices and lead a global conversation on the planet's future.

Contact Planet Forward at press@planetforward.org for more information.

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