



ROTARY STUDENT ENVIRONMENT AWARD

Achieving Net Zero with Trees and Wood

The Rotary Student Environment Award is an all-Ireland project to promote research in climate change mitigation. It is aimed at third level undergraduate students from a wide range of disciplines including, forestry, architecture, ecology, engineering, science, horticulture, design, agriculture, land management, bioenergy, product development, wood working and restoration. The challenge is to research and submit a project on any element of forestry throughout the growing and production cycle with the aim of contributing to net zero by 2050.

Wood Awards
IRELAND 2022



Transitioning to a net-zero world is regarded by the UN as one of the greatest challenges facing humankind. To keep global warming to no more than 1.5°C, emissions of green house gas (GHG) need to be reduced to net zero by 2050. This environment challenge has been acknowledged by Rotary International for a number of years. More than \$18 million in Foundation global grant funding was allocated to environment-related projects over a five year period before Rotary formally added a new area of focus in 2020: supporting the environment.

Rotary Ireland plays its part in organising a wide range of environment related projects including tree planting. Now it is launching the Rotary Student Environment Award to encourage third level students to submit projects on the role that woodlands, forest, plantations and their products – wood and non-wood – can contribute in achieving net zero.

The focus is on trees because sustainable forestry is regarded globally as vital in achieving net zero. The role of forestry is acknowledged at forest level in carbon sequestration and also in carbon storage in wood and wood products where it displaces fossil based materials in construction, energy and a range of exciting new products from packaging to fashion.

"Afforestation is the single largest land-based climate change mitigation measure available to Ireland," maintains Ireland's Climate Action Plan, Our Shared Future which adds: "Using wood and wood-based products for construction is a sustainable substitute for conventional carbon-heavy construction products, such as concrete, brick and steel."

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The challenge is to research and submit a project on any element of forestry throughout the growing and production cycle from seed to end use, and reuse, with the aim of contributing to net zero by 2050. Projects can explore forests and tree species and the interaction between forestry and other land uses including agriculture while outside the forest, there are opportunities to feature innovative wood in all its forms, in decarbonising the economy.

Projects for the Rotary Ireland Student Environment Award are accepted from Irish undergraduate students from third level colleges in Ireland – north and south – and overseas.

HOW TO ENTER

- a) Submit project on PDF (A4) to info@wood.ie approximately 2,000 to 3,500 words plus tables, figures and photographs if relevant.
- b) Project to be accompanied by completed application form (available at www.wood.ie).

Closing date: 16th September 2022.

PRIZES

First prize: Rotary Student Environment Award medal and certificate plus €2,000* to pursue further research. Commendation certificates awarded to the runner(s) up.

To be presented in conjunction with Wood Awards Ireland (provisionally arranged for 17 November 2022 in Farmleigh House, Dublin).

The Rotary Student Environment Award is a collaboration between Rotary Ireland and Wood Awards Ireland.

*This may be increased to €4,000 for an exceptional project to fund further research.