



# 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, biodiversity, 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 the forestry and timber industry – from seed to end use and reuse – with the aim of contributing to net zero by 2050. Applications are accepted for current projects and work completed over the past two years.

### Climate change challenge to third level students

Wood Awards  
IRELAND 2022

# Rotary Student Environment Award



# Achieving Net Zero with Trees and Wood



**T**ransitioning to a net-zero world is regarded by Rotary International 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. More than \$18 million in Foundation global grant funding was allocated to environment-related projects over a five year period before Rotary formally added the environment as a new area of focus in 2020.

Rotary Ireland is launching the Rotary Student Environment Award to encourage third level students to submit projects on the role that woodlands, forests, plantations and their products – wood and non-wood – can contribute to 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.

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The challenge is to research and submit a project on any element of the forestry and timber industry - from seed to end use and reuse - with the aim of contributing to net zero by 2050. Projects can explore forests, biodiversity 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. Applications are accepted for current projects and work completed over the past three years.

## HOW TO ENTER

- Submit project on PDF based on college thesis or essay to [info@wood.ie](mailto:info@wood.ie).
- Project to be accompanied by completed application form (available at [www.wood.ie](http://www.wood.ie)).

Closing date: 14th October 2022.

## PRIZES

First prize: Rotary Student Environment Award medal and certificate plus €2,000\* to pursue further research. Commendation certificates may also be awarded.

To be presented in conjunction with Wood Awards Ireland, at a date to be announced in Farmleigh House, Dublin.

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

\*Prize fund provided by Wood Awards Ireland which may be increased to €4,000 for an exceptional project and if there is a clear intention to pursue further study and research.

*Using wood and wood-based products for construction is a sustainable substitute for conventional carbon-heavy construction products, such as concrete, brick and steel.*

*Afforestation is the single largest land-based climate change mitigation measure available to Ireland.*

– Ireland's Climate Action Plan: Our Shared Future.