



# ROTARY STUDENT ENVIRONMENT AWARD

Achieving Net Zero with  
Forests 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, bio-energy, 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.

€4,000 prize  
Climate change challenge to  
third level students



Supported by the Rotary Club of Wicklow  
and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



# Rotary Student Environment Award



**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 launched the Rotary Student Environment Award in 2021 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 and wood 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.

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

# Achieving Net Zero with Forests and Wood



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 are accepted from undergraduate and masters students from third level colleges in Ireland – north and south. Applications are accepted for current projects and work completed over the past two years.

## HOW TO ENTER

- Submit project essay (1,000 words maximum) – other material, including thesis may be attached.
- Submit poster suitable for A1 (594 x 841mm) reproduction. Rotary will print and exhibit shortlisted projects at promotional events.
- Project to be accompanied by completed application form, available at [www.wood.ie](http://www.wood.ie), or email [info@wood.ie](mailto:info@wood.ie).

Closing date: 10th July 2024.

## PRIZES UP TO €4000

Rotary Student Environment Award medal, certificate and €2,000 to the winner plus €2,000 for an exceptional project should the winner wish to pursue further research. Certificates of merit will also be presented for shortlisted projects. Presentation will be in conjunction with Wood Awards Ireland, in November 2024 in Farnleigh House, Dublin.

The Rotary Student Environment Award is a collaboration between Rotary Ireland and Wood Awards Ireland and supported by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

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

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