



Scottish Borders Construction Forum



The Scottish Borders Construction Forum has been set up to discover how best to help and assist Borders Trades People, Local Businesses and Trade Suppliers (as individuals or collectively) to make more of the opportunities that the transition into energy efficiency and net zero will offer. Such a forum existed before, and its loss has left a noticeable vacuum.

In 2021 a wide range of likeminded individuals, organisations and agencies came together to set up Scottish Borders Construction Forum.

The Forum aims to provide a central point for all construction sector businesses, organisations, sole traders and associated bodies to share information, provide training opportunities and keep the sector informed on market changes.

There is an urgent need to look ahead and establish how to best prepare for future opportunities, especially with regard to the impacts of climate change on the construction sector and through PAS 2030/35

To date the Forum has held 8 Steering Group Meetings, produced a series of 12 Webinars, circulated over 3500 information fliers through trade outlets, events and direct to tradespeople and provides regular industry news through its Facebook Page.

Planned for 2023 are training opportunities and Steering Group Meetings. Like our Facebook page to stay informed.

Our aim is to support local people to work locally and to benefit from the opportunities that energy efficiency will bring.

In this edition...

**GET BUSINESS
READY WITH
BORDERS COLLEGE**

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CERTIFIED -
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RETROFIT REPORT

**SIGN UP FOR
PASSIVHAUS
TRAINING**

**DROP YOUR
DETAILS INTO
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SELKIRK**

Have you registered your business with CITB?

The Skills and Training Fund SME gives employers up to £10k of Funding for Construction Related Training (depending on company size), their Advisers can provide support and guidance for any employers looking to access the Funding, the application process is straightforward and payment (depending on credit check) can be made upfront.

Employers with CIS only (no PAYE) can receive up to £2500.

The Skills and Training Fund Medium gives employers up to £25k

There's also Apprenticeship Grants up to £14.5k for relevant Scottish Construction Apprenticeships.

Qualification Grants are available for the achievement of VQ's, Short Period (up to 1 Year) and Longer period (Over 1 Year) qualifications such as HNC/HND and Degree's.

CITB have a team of Advisers who would be more than happy to engage with employers to ensure they are benefitting from the full CITB offering.

Contact Barry Dawson barry.dawson@citb.co.uk to see how CITB can help your business

A new report by WWF and Scottish Power finds that installing low-carbon technologies and energy efficiency measures can enhance property value, while at the same time slashing carbon emissions and energy bills.

Read the full article here:
<https://www.be-st.build/news/better-homes-cooler-planet/>

Time is running out to get MCS Certified!

Heat Pump Installers (air, ground or water source) can apply for a 75%/£1,000 Grant to become MCS Certified.

The Scottish Government's MCS certification fund provides heating engineers with an interest in installing heat pumps (either air, ground or water source) with a grant to become MCS certified on heat pumps. The grant will pay 75%, up to a maximum of £1,000, of the certification fees and will run until funds run out or until the end of March 2023, whatever comes first.

You can apply for the grant if you meet the following criteria:

- Be an SME in accordance with European Commission Recommendations
- Have at least one registered office in Scotland.
- Conduct heating installations in Scotland.
- Not currently be MCS certified for any kind of heat pump technology.

Apply at: <https://bit.ly/3bVOJjc>

Are you on the Renewables Installer List?

Energy Savings Trust have a really useful tool for homeowners and businesses to find a qualified installer.

If you are registered with MCS it's easy to add your details to the directory here:

<https://rif.est.org.uk/>

Get Business Ready with Borders College

Is your business ready for the uptake in demand for the installation of Air Source Heat Pump Systems?

With the launch of the new Home Energy Scotland Grant and Loan scheme, there has never been a better time for installers of Air Source Heat Pumps or those looking to upgrade their skills to ensure they have the qualifications and knowledge to meet the predicted demand for the new low-carbon heating systems.

Installers of Air Source Heat Pump systems must be fully qualified and, if possible, accredited by a relevant industry body and/or trade federation.

Homeowners or those looking to build a new home could be eligible for the grant and loan scheme available directly through Home Energy Scotland.

Grant funding for energy efficiency improvements is up to 75% of the combined cost of improvements, up to the maximum grant amount of £7,500, or £9,000 for households which qualify for the rural uplift. Grant funding for Heat Pumps is up to £7,500, or £9,000 for households which qualify for the rural uplift. The remainder of the funding requested can be taken up as an optional interest-free loan.

Greg Steel, Curriculum Learning Manager for Sustainability, commented:



"The government is committed to decarbonising the way we heat our homes and moving to the installation of low-carbon heating systems. This is the perfect time to invest in training and upskilling to ensure we can keep up with the projected demand."

Borders College has a range of training opportunities to help you get your business on track and be ready to benefit from the potential demand in the coming years.

Our Heat Pump Installer course is designed to provide you with the skills to design, install and commission Ground Source and Air Source Heat Pumps. This BPEC-accredited training course is one of the requirements for MCS certification, which is often required to access government funding.

Our team of Business Skills Advisors will be able to talk you through the funding options that may be available to you as a small to medium business within Scotland.

To see the full range of opportunities available, please visit the website

<https://www.borderscollege.ac.uk/greenskills>

To discuss funding opportunities, please email
debi@borderscollege.ac.uk

Passivhaus Training

The Scottish Government has recently announced that, from 2025, all new-build houses will have to meet a Passivhaus-equivalent standard for energy efficiency. The proposal is to develop a Scottish Standard for how this will be assessed through the Building Regulations and this will be a radical upgrade on current energy efficiency standards, with the potential to reduce space-heating demands to about 10% of a typical house.

It's important to point out this is not about adopting the Passivhaus Certification scheme, but creating a Scottish equivalent. At this stage there are no details about exactly what criteria the Standard will cover, but the core principles of Passivhaus are about adopting the "fabric-first" approach involving:

- Very high levels of insulation and air-tightness
- Minimise thermal bridges
- Design and layout of windows to maximise solar gain

Passivhaus typically includes Mechanical Heat Recovery Ventilation (MHRV) as this is an important way of keeping the heat inside, whether that heat comes from the heating system or just the latent heat from electrical equipment and our own body warmth, and it will be interesting to see how this is included in the Standard.

The Passivhaus system was developed in Germany in the early 1990s and since then has become industry shorthand when referring to highly energy efficient houses. However very few people have any practical experience with Passivhaus – there are only about 37,000 homes around the world certified by the Passivhaus Association, of which about 1,500 are in the UK. Hence a lot of upskilling for designers and builders will be needed over the next two years.



To start that process locally we are organising a CPD event for architects and other design professionals. We are looking to run this with the Edinburgh Chartered Architects Network (ECAN) with the support of the Built Environment - Smarter Technology centre (BE-ST) (formerly the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre). The date and venue are to be confirmed but anticipate April 2023. To register your interest, please contact us at: bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com

An ongoing series of training courses about all aspects of Passivhaus construction is being run by BE-ST:

<https://www.be-st.build/accelerate-to-zero/retrofit/low-carbon-learning/passivhaus-in-practice/>

The UK Passivhaus Trust also runs lots of training events:

https://www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/our_events.php

In the Scottish Borders, a terrace of 3 houses in St Boswells with Passivhaus certification were completed by the Eildon Housing Association in 2020: <https://www.eildon.org.uk/2020/02/another-step-closer-to-affordable-green-homes-in-the-borders/>

Get into Construction! New CITB Report on Construction Skills Requirement

An extra 19,550 workers are needed in Scotland by 2027. In Scotland, the average Annual recruitment requirement will have to increase by 3,950 new workers each year to deliver the expected work between the start of 2023 and end of 2027.

Read the reports here: <https://www.citb.co.uk/media/acbnbn5t/csn-national-report-final-report.pdf> <https://www.citb.co.uk/about-citb/construction-industry-research-reports/construction-skills-network-csn/>

Successful Insight Day!

70 young people from across Scottish Borders participated in the Insight Day at Borders College Galashiels Campus at the end of November 2022. The day was designed for young people aged 16-25 whether in employment, education or training.

Its aim was to provide an opportunity to learn more about careers in the Built Environment, including the diverse range of roles in construction, design, property management and energy. With the intention of challenging stereotypes around jobs in the traditional building trades, exploring the latest trends in design and technology and highlighting the need to recruit high numbers in net-zero construction.

The day gave young people insight into the modern construction industry, opportunities to talk one-on-one with people working in the field, and for young people to explore how they could contribute to the ongoing development of their community.

Keynote speakers from SOSE and CALA Homes inspired young people to consider careers in construction and the transition to net zero. A range of talks and workshops were offered by local employers, industry experts and a wide range of partners to engage young people in the construction sector.



Insight Day was hosted by Borders STEM Partnership which includes Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), Borders College, Heriot-Watt University, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and the Energy Skills Partnership (ESP).

Some of the key workshop events were arranged by SOSE, Fuel Change, and BE-ST (the Built Environment – Smarter Technology centre, formerly the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre). Other workshop presenters included David Wyllie from Page + Park Architects, Jenny Wood from A Place in Childhood, and architectural photographer Tom Manley. The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) kindly sponsored the lunches for all school students.

Thanks to everyone for making the day a huge success!

The Construction Forum are currently working with DYW and the Borders College to organise another Insight Day for 2023 and are hopeful this will be the start of an ongoing programme.

If you are interested in being involved in this year's events, either the Insight Day or the school's Built Environment Week, please contact bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com

Sustainable Selkirk needs Tradespeople



Sustainable Selkirk is a community-led project delivered by Selkirk Regeneration and funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. Sustainable Selkirk aims to bring the Selkirk community together to take action on climate change.

The project has three broad objectives;

- to reduce domestic carbon emissions
- promote sustainable travel
- increase awareness of the climate crisis

The project is focused on enhancing social well-being and promoting resilience (in terms of the cost-of-living crisis) to meet the needs of the local people now,

whilst encouraging longer-term practical and meaningful action in response to climate change. Our current activities include, providing home energy advice, offering free e-bike loans, workshops and skills training.

The Community Energy Advice Centre is centred in the heart of Selkirk's vibrant town, 5 Tower Street and is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10 am to 2 pm. Here, we offer free and impartial energy advice to anyone in the TD7 and surrounding area.

Sustainable Selkirk would like to showcase some of the services offered by local tradespeople.

If you have any leaflets, posters, etc. you would like displayed in their window and noticeboard please email Angela, angela@sustainableseelkirk.org.uk or pop into the centre during opening hours.

Are your clients hoping for a cosy home?

Installing a heat pump may be the answer. What's more, there's financial support available for heat pump installation in Scotland.

The **Home Energy Scotland Grant and Loan** can help with the cost of installing both heat pumps and energy efficiency improvements.

Grant funding for heat pumps is **up to £7,500 or £9,000 for households which qualify for a rural uplift**. The remainder of funding requested can be taken up as an optional interest-free loan.

Find all the details here:

<https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/heat-pumps/grants-and-funding/>

Retrofit Report

CLES Report

Retrofitting energy efficiency measures to our region's housing stock will benefit everyone who lives here, but with the right approach we can also help create well-paid, sustainable local jobs in an industry that has to grow if we are to meet Scotland's Net Zero ambitions.

Last year SOSE, working with Eildon Housing, commissioned the Centre for Local Economic Studies (CLES) to produce a report into the economic potential of taking a Community Wealth Building (CWB) approach to the installation of energy efficiency retrofit measures in the South. Initially starting with RSL homes but looking at the potential for the whole of the region's housing stock.

CWB is a different approach to regional economic benefit which is founded on five principles:

- Plural ownership of the economy.
- Making financial power work for local places.
- Fair employment and just labour markets.
- Progressive procurement of goods and services.
- Socially productive use of land and property.

We wanted to find out what benefit could come to the region if a progressive procurement approach was taken, whereby the money is spent as locally as possible.

The report finds that by 2030, retrofitting could sustain up to 2,239 direct jobs within Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders,



of which 335 could come from social housing. That could contribute £112.5m to the region's economy, of which £27.5m could come from social housing.

By Scotland's Net Zero target year of 2045 the numbers are even bigger, with up to 6,690 direct jobs and £340m generated by retrofit across all of the region's housing stock.

The report makes a number of recommendations to help realise these benefits for the South, covering collaborative working, training & skills, project delivery, stronger CWB asks of Tier 1 contractors, finance asks of UK and Scottish Governments and involving tenants. The full report can be accessed here: <https://cles.org.uk/publications/a-roadmap-to-decarbonisation/>

SOSE is considering how it can help to implement these recommendations. We'll be working with our partners across the region to develop an action plan. The CLES report sets out a substantial opportunity for our region; the hard work will be in delivering it.

Rob Davidson
Strategy Manager Community Wealth Building
robert.davidson@sose.scot

For more information on South of Scotland Enterprise go to:
<https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/contact-us>

Green Skills Training from Borders College. The courses on offer cover key areas and combine online learning with onsite practical elements on a college campus near you, to ensure you gain the skills and qualifications employers really value.

We're here to help your business develop. With so many options for training and funding available we want to make it easy for you to find the package that suits your business. You can browse our information to find out about the learning opportunities available, and when you're ready - get in touch with us.

One of our Learning Consultants will then arrange to meet with you, either in person or online, and help you to build a package of learning to allow you, and your company develop. As part of this process, we will advise on any funding opportunities that are available to you.

Energy Efficiency and Microgeneration Systems

The National Energy Efficiency Transition Support and Heat Pump Training Fund, supported by ESP has been put in place by the Scottish Government to support those in the energy, engineering and construction sectors whose careers have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Green Skills Training Opportunities

- Sustainable Construction Awareness
- Introduction to airtight construction and testing
- An Introduction to thermal imaging for construction and engineering

- Mechanical ventilation heat recovery systems
- Renewable technology awareness
- BPEC Heat pump systems
- BPEC Solar hot water systems
- BPEC Unvented hot water systems
- Water bylaws
- Battery storage systems
- EV charge point installation
- Smart Home Control systems
- Electric / Hybrid Vehicle Awareness
- External wall insulation systems

Funding

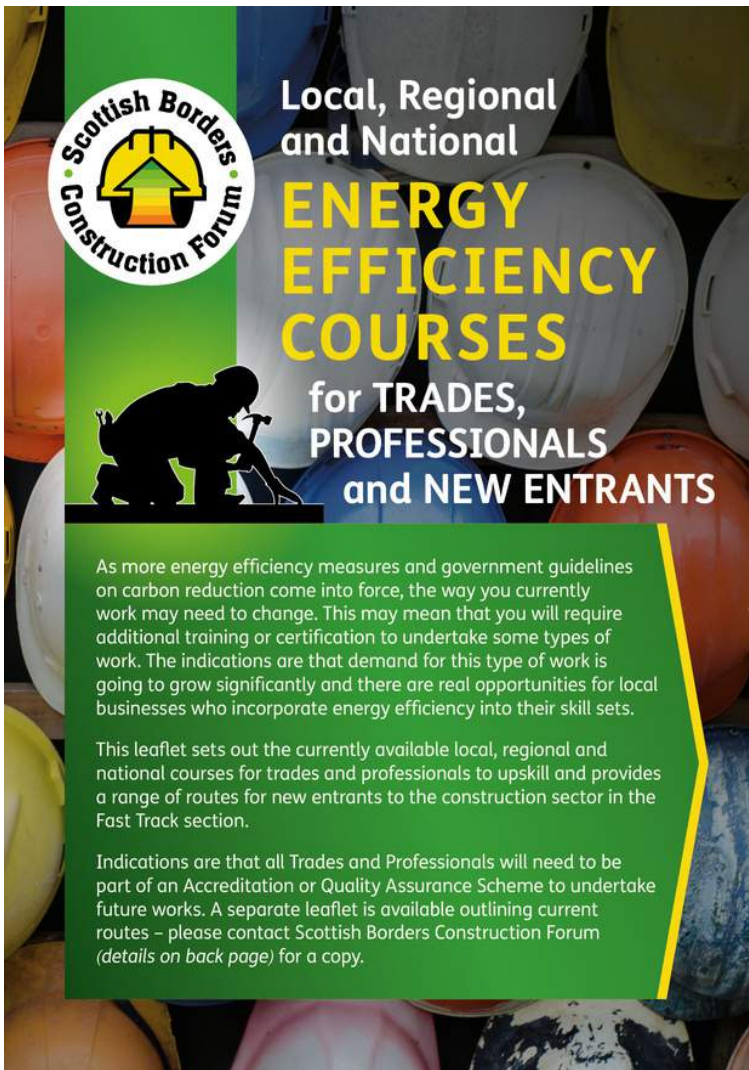
You could be eligible for funding through the Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF)

Supported by the Energy Saving Trust

Energy Saving Trust is an independent organisation dedicated to promoting energy efficiency, low carbon transport and sustainable energy use. We aim to address the climate emergency and deliver the wider benefits of clean energy as we transition to net zero.

In association with Energy Skills Partnership
ESP is a collaboration of Scotland's colleges and industry partners established to increase Scotland's capability and capacity to deliver the right skills for the energy, engineering and construction sectors to meet industry demand.
Find out more

To find out more about the courses or funding available, for any of the courses listed above, please contact debi@borderscollege.ac.uk or visit the Green Skills pages at the link below:



Download our FREE Guides

As part of our Community Renewal Fund work we have been compiling information on all Energy Efficiency courses for trades, professionals and new entrants to help you find the right one.

Our Local, Regional and National Energy Efficiency Courses for Trades, Professionals and New Entrants leaflet sets out the currently available local, regional and national courses for trades and professionals to upskill and provides a range of routes for new entrants to the construction sector in the Fast Track section. The leaflet highlights courses that have access to training funds and if the course is a route to accreditation through MCS.

Download: <https://bit.ly/3pnPPYe>

Finding the right accreditation scheme can be challenging so we have compiled the most requested information into a useful leaflet Accreditation, Competent Persons and Quality Assurance Schemes. The leaflet provides information on MCS, Trustmark, OVEZ (electric vehicle charging), DEA (energy assessors) and a range of Competent Person Schemes for all technologies and construction sector roles.

Download: <https://bit.ly/3SWdgWf>



CRF Reports

Community Renewal Fund Reports are now available to view at the Borders Construction Forum page: <https://sup.org.uk/projects/scottish-borders-construction-forum>

The project examined construction sector supply chains to identify sectoral issues relating to net zero delivery. The work looked in detail, at education, training, skills development and educational pathways for young people. There is an urgent need to upskill and multi skill existing workforces, create fast track options for new entrants and highlight construction careers to the future workforce. The reports suggest wide ranging actions to support the education and construction sectors.

Catchup on the SBCF Webinar Series...

We have recorded 12 webinars for you to watch on YouTube or Facebook

- Retrofitting Traditional Buildings for Energy Efficiency, Roger Curtis, Historic Environment Scotland
- Scotland's Insulation Challenge, George Donaldson and Wilson Shaw, National Insulation Association of Scotland
- Retrofit Roles, PAS 2035 - An Overview and Opportunity, Jonathon Bourke, Elmhurst Energy
- Integrating Renewable Energy into Buildings, Ranald Boydell
- Green Construction, Greg Steel, Borders College
- Funding, Training and Apprenticeship information for Sole Traders and Small Businesses, Borders College, Skills Development Scotland, Construction Industry Training Board and Energy Skills Partnership.
- Understanding EPC's (Energy Performance Certificates), Kevin Andison, Borders College
- Digital Skills for Small Construction Businesses, Saffron Grant, Digital Construction Skills.
- Air Tightness and Heat Recovery - Considerations for Domestic Ventilation Strategies in Scotland, Stefan Huber, PAUL Heat Recovery
- Borders College Apprenticeship Webinar, Richard Cook, Borders College
- Climate Literacy, Scott McAulay and Ranald Boydell
- A Practical Guide to Retrofitting, Andy Walker, SURE Insulation

Borders Construction Forum YouTube Channel

www.youtube.com/channel/BordersConstructionForum

Facebook www.facebook.com/BordersConstructionForum

Looking for a New Career in Construction?

This fantastic site set up by CiTB allows you to browse through 182 job roles to find out what you could be earning, the qualifications you need and how you can progress. There's information on training and you can read real feedback from people already working in the construction sector.

www.goconstruct.org/construction-careers/browse-all-job-roles/

The next SBCF Newsletter is out in May.
If you have a news item you'd like to include
please email
bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com



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