



Scottish Borders Construction Forum



Welcome to our 1st Scottish Borders Construction Forum Newsletter!

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 7 Steering Group Meetings, produced a series of 12 Webinars, circulated over 1500 information fliers through trade outlets and provides regular industry news through its Facebook Page.

Planned for 2022/23 are 6 training opportunities, 3 Steering Group Meetings and 2 Roadshow events. 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...

REGISTER ON THE NEW ESES COMMUNITIES PORTAL

SCOTTISH RENEWABLES AWARDS

FUNDING FROM ENERGY SKILLS PARTNERSHIP (ESP) FOR OVER 25'S

TRADITIONAL BUILDING SKILLS DEMONSTRATIONS

BORDERS COLLEGE NEWS & GREEN SKILLS COURSES

TAKE THE TRADES SURVEY!

TRAINING WEBINARS - CATCHUP ON YOUTUBE

INDUSTRY REPORTS AND INITIATIVES

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EE TRADESPEOPLE

News, Reports & Initiatives

Register at ESES

Tradespeople and Communities are being encouraged to register for work and community benefits at the new Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region Deal website.

This new online community benefits portal matches communities and good causes with suppliers and business in the ESES City Region Deal area.

The portal will allow charities to register requests for in-kind support from local firms including construction and wider supply chains.

For more information email info@ESESCommunities.org or visit www.ESESCommunities.org



Who will you nominate for a Scottish Renewables Award?

The Net-Zero Energy Transition Awards are open to entries from organisations, bodies and individuals contributing to the renewable energy industry supply chain in Scotland.

You can enter multiple times in the same category and multiple categories.

Individuals can nominate themselves, another individual, a project or company.

The awards are FREE to enter. Deadline for nominations is 5pm on 1 July www.scottishrenewables.com



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/



Join LESSIN

Local Energy Systems Scottish Industry Network (LESSIN) is a cluster-building initiative which brings together manufacturers, supply chain, project developers, technology companies, innovation support organisations, knowledge communities, and investors to cultivate the low carbon ecosystem in Scotland, and beyond.

LESSIN is led by Energy Systems Catapult in collaboration with the Energy Technology Partnership (ETP), and on behalf of Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and South of Scotland Enterprise. LESSIN is part-funded by the 2014–2020 European Structural and Investment Fund.

LESSIN is FREE to join. Sign up here:
www.lessin.hivebrite.com

New Report on Green Jobs

In this report UK Energy Research Centre present findings from a systematic review of international literature on low carbon job creation, quality, and skills.

The net employment impacts of a renewable energy or energy efficiency investment account both for jobs that are created, as well as jobs that might be displaced in other parts of the economy as a result of the investment.

This report examines how many jobs can be created by policy support for investment in low carbon energy and energy efficiency compared to supporting fossil fuel incumbents. Read the full report here:
www.ukerc.ac.uk/publications/green-jobs



Host an Event at this year's Doors Open Day!

Scottish Borders' Doors Open Days Hybrid Festival 3-4 September 2022.
Celebrating heritage, architecture, culture and places.

Get involved by offering a **FREE** event: Opening a building, Hosting an online or in-person talk, Creating a new digital resource (video tour, drone footage, new research, slideshows).

Get involved at www.doorsopendays.org.uk

Register your event by May 31st 2022

Borders Construction Forum Steering Group Needs YOU!

If you have a construction sector business in Scottish Borders we invite you to join our Steering Group. The group meets virtually and in person every 3 months for 2 hours to discuss future developments and innovative ideas for construction.

The next meeting is on August 24th 10am.

Email: bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com to reserve your place.

Opportunity

for those working in Energy Efficiency and Renewables
GREENING COMMUNITY BUILDINGS



Calling all businesses who can offer solutions to enable community buildings to become more sustainable particularly in relation to draughtproofing, insulation, heat pumps (air/source, ground source), solar PV, solar thermal, LED lighting etc.

Local Charities, The Bridge and Berwickshire Association of Voluntary Services (BAVS) are bridging the gap through knowledge transfer by organising a series of workshops encouraging those people responsible for community buildings to consider “greening” solutions to make their premises more affordable to run in the short term and sustainable in the longer term which will assist the Scottish and UK Governments in reaching their Net Zero emissions target by 2045

It is anticipated that grant funding will become available in the near future to enable or assist such “greening” projects to progress. One of the outcomes of the workshops is to provide a list of businesses, preferably Borders based, who can assist community buildings to meet their goals.

Can your business provide “greening solution”, in any shape or form? If you can meet this need then please email bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com giving your business contact details along with a brief outline of the specialisms/solutions that you can offer. This list will be shared with The Bridge Project Manager (heather.batsch@thebridge.scot) who is responsible for compiling “How To Guides” in relation to Greening Community Buildings. Your business details will therefore be passed to participants of the workshops, village and community halls and other parties who have an interest in this topic. If you have been involved in delivering any innovative greening projects then we want to know more about that too.



heather.batsch@thebridge.scot



UK Government

This project is funded by the
UK Government through the
UK Community Renewal Fund

Borders College News

RJT Excavations undertake New Assured Drone Training

RJT Excavations, based in Jedburgh, recently undertook 'Drone Use in Construction – Introduction with Borders College Department of Enterprise and Business Innovation (DEBI).

The classroom-based qualification is aimed at anyone who would like to understand how drones can be used in a construction environment and what is involved in carrying out a drone survey.

This training was funded through the Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF) and will assist RJT Excavations in improving efficiency, quality, safety and environmental performance.

Read the full article here:

<https://www.borderscollege.ac.uk/news/rjt-excavations-undertake-new-assured-drone-training>



College students 'CONVERT' their skills for future construction development

Borders College is one of three colleges taking part in the Construction Virtual Environment Resource Training (CONVERT) project, which uses technologies such as Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality and Mixed Reality to provide high-quality learning experiences that mimic real situations in construction.

These sessions included the use of drones for site surveying and 3D environmental mapping, virtual training tables which simulate saws and routers, and spray paint simulators. Working at height and the use of laser-scanning and high-quality rendering to produce a virtual deconstruction of a building were also part of the innovative project.

Read the full article here:

<https://www.borderscollege.ac.uk/news/college-students-convert-their-skills-future-construction-development>

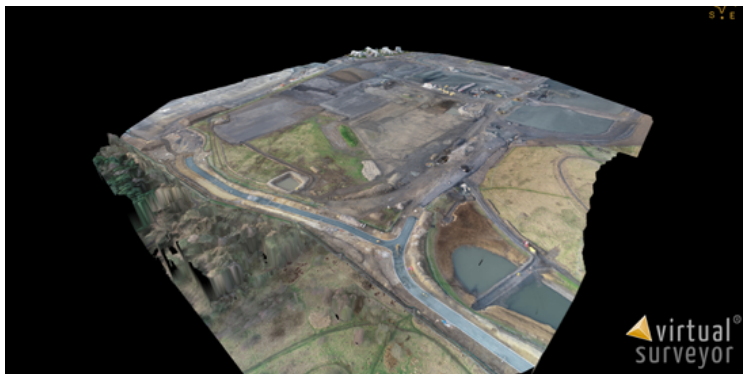
Construction workers benefit from the new Green Skills Training opportunities

A mix of students, local tradespeople and local self-builders recently attended the free Sustainable Construction Awareness course at Borders College - part of the Green Skills Training programme recently launched to provide opportunities to employers and businesses to reskill their staff in sustainable practices.

The training, which focused on practices that can help to construct homes with very high levels of energy efficiency, was delivered by a team of expert staff and consisted of four pillars of sustainable construction - insulate, build tight, ventilate right and low-carbon heating systems.

The team of trainers delivered the learning through talks, demonstrations and practical hands-on activities, with the informative sessions highlighting the skills needed to reduce emissions from the built environment and help build a greener future.

Read the full article here: <https://www.borderscollege.ac.uk/news/construction-workers-benefit-new-green-skills-training-opportunities>



Green Skills Training from Borders College

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:

Electric / Hybrid Vehicle Awareness

New EV Course for non-technical staff

Thursday 26th May 2022. One day course

Optional Final test leading to IMI Level 1 Award

BORDERS
COLLEGE

One Day Electric / Hybrid Vehicle Awareness Course

Thursday 26th May 2022.

Optional final test leading to IMI Level 1 Award



This course is for non-technical staff, such as sales and parts advisors, valeters, managers, paramedics, and professional drivers, to gain an awareness of Electric/Hybrid vehicles to enable them to continue to work safely in their roles.

Funding

Course costs may be able to be met through the Flexible Workforce Development Fund subject to certain conditions.

For further details on this course and the funding options please email: debi@borderscollege.ac.uk

www.borderscollege.ac.uk/greenskills



This course is for non-technical staff, such as sales and parts advisors, valeters, managers, paramedics, and professional drivers, to gain an awareness of Electric/Hybrid vehicles to enable them to continue to work safely in their roles.

The content of this qualification has been designed to give the learners the knowledge required to work safely around Electric/Hybrid vehicles.

It contains one mandatory unit covering: The types of Electric/Hybrid vehicles available Hazards associated with motor vehicle high energy electrical systems Working safely around Electric/Hybrid vehicles including charging.

Funding

Course costs may be able to be met through the Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF).

For further details on this course and the funding options please email: debi@borderscollege.ac.uk

National Transition Training Fund

FLEXIBLE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND

FILL YOUR SKILLS GAP

The Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF) is now open for applications.

www.sfc.ac.uk

Scottish Funding Council

Smarter Scotland
Scottish Government

RE – SKILL YOUR TEAM WITH THE HELP OF

FWDF Phase 2
THE FLEXIBLE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE

Levy Payers can access up to £15,000 and SMEs can access up to £5,000 of training

National Transition Training Fund

Jan – June 2022

Contact your regional college to access

	Heat Pumps	Solar Thermal	18th Edition
Dundee & Angus College			X
Forth Valley College			X
West College Scotland NESCOL	X	X	X
Edinburgh College	X	X	X
Ayrshire College			X
Borders College	X		X

Eligibility criteria has been broadened to include the following characteristics.

Learners must be 25+ years old and either:

- unemployed, at risk of redundancy or their job under threat as a result of COVID-19 or the economic impact of EU Exit, or
- have identified a skills gap in their current job or to return to employment, or
- have identified a skills gap as part of the '[Just Transition](#)' to net zero.



Scottish Funding Council
Promoting further and higher education



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

www.sfc.ac.uk

BE-ST Free Training to Upskill and Reskill for Construction Sector Businesses and Sole Traders



How Built Environment – Smarter Transformation can support you

BE-ST (formerly the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre) is the launchpad to a zero carbon built environment.

We provide the connections, infrastructure and culture needed to solve the sector's most pressing challenges. We bring together world-class academia, government bodies and industry at all levels to future-proof the commercial and environmental road forward for our sector.

As a not-for-profit organisation, we're connected to over 50,000 businesses, organisations and individuals in the built environment ecosystem.

We can help your organisation:

- Develop new products, business models and services
- Access funding streams

- Explore advanced equipment at our Innovation Factory
- Create scalable solutions to industry challenges
- Enhance knowledge and skills

Our website www.be-st.build is a wealth of free support for the industry. It includes free training, case studies, information on funding opportunities and details on all the latest news from BE-ST.

Current opportunity - Low Carbon Learning fully funded training

Supported by Skills Development Scotland through more than £175,000 from the National Transition Training Fund, BE-ST is offering free training for people in the construction sector looking to upskill and reskill, supporting a transition towards a zero carbon built environment.

Training includes both online learning and live demonstrations at BE-ST's Innovation Factory in Hamilton – home to the UK's only commercial-scale vacuum press for manufacturing cross-laminated and glue-laminated timber components, and a Pilot Insulation Line for trialling new insulation materials

Training will run until the end of July and places are limited – find out more and register your interest here:

Low Carbon Learning www.be-st.build

Jedburgh Students Receive Traditional Building Skills Demonstrations



A traditional building skills demonstration has been delivered for young people at Jedburgh Grammar Campus, one of the final elements of the five-year Jedburgh Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme.

Students received mini masterclasses in stonemasonry, roof slating, painting, decorating and surveying as part of the Build Your Future programme. The event gave the students opportunities to try different trades and introduced them to potential careers in the construction industry.

The event marks the end of Jedburgh CARS, a partnership project developed with the local community and funded by Historic Environment Scotland and ourselves. It has delivered a range of heritage and conservation-based regeneration activities within the town centre over a five-year period.

Plans are being finalised for a final exhibition and weekend of activities to highlight all that the scheme has achieved.

Nicola Shaw, Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Scottish Borders

“Working with partners in education and the construction sector, the Build Your Future programme has been developed nationally to maximise the impact of construction activities in schools for the benefit of young people. The feedback from teachers and the young people who participated was extremely positive, and we look forward to continuing to roll out Build Your Future to all high schools in the Scottish Borders.”

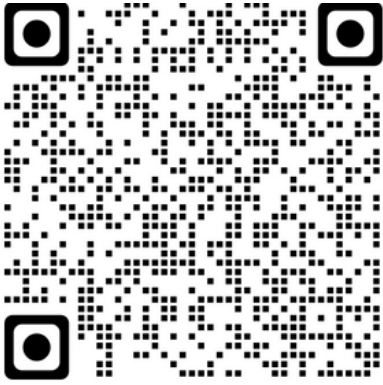
Susan Oliver, Headteacher at Jedburgh Grammar Campus

“We are grateful for the range of opportunities working with the CARS team has offered our young people over the last few years and were delighted to be involved in this final event, which raised the profile of potential careers within the traditional building sector. This event has given the young people a fantastic insight into the construction industry, with the hands-on nature of the experience being of particular value.”

Build Your Future will be returning to the Scottish Borders in the near future through the Hawick CARS programme, with DYW and the construction industry once again working in collaboration.

Build Your Future has been developed by Developing the Young Workforce, education and the construction industry and is free to use and available on the DYW Scotland website.





There's Still Time to Respond to the SBCF Trades Survey!

If you're a sole trader or small business in the construction sector you know how hard it is to find funds for training and upskilling.

Help us to help you by completing our 3-minute survey so we can make the case for increased small business funding.

Scan the QR Code or go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ConstructionSB>

Please be assured that your responses are anonymous unless you include your email address.

Thank you!

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, Randal 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 Randal 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



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