



Scottish Borders Construction Forum



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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINT TENDERING FOR BIGGER CONTRACTS?

Pupils from Tweedbank Primary School win the **Design an Eco House Schools Competition!**

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Design an Eco House Schools



Competition



Funded by
UK Government



Young Eco Innovators Celebrated at Borders College Prize-Giving Event

Councillor Leagh Douglas, Executive Member for Education and Lifelong Learning was on hand to present the awards.

The winning pupils from Eyemouth, Tweedbank, and Stow schools were each awarded vouchers of £25 each in recognition of their achievements. The prize money was kindly donated by Oregon Timber and Southern Uplands Partnership.

Cllr Douglas said: "Today's event gave us an inspirational insight into some of the wonderful innovative mindsets we have amongst young people in our schools. The attention to detail and creativity around the winning designs was remarkable. At the council, we are committed to the Net zero targets we face. To achieve these, we must make key decisions and commitments to position ourselves with a workforce capable of delivering on them in the future. Educational pathways in eco-friendly construction and design will undoubtedly be a key element of enabling us to help meet these targets."

The 360° immersive classroom at Borders College provided an ideal backdrop for the event, highlighting the importance of modern, technology-driven learning environments in preparing students for the challenges of the future.

The Scottish Borders Construction Forum, whose aim is to enable and facilitate the sharing of ideas, updates and data to support and develop the construction sector and supply chain across the Scottish Borders, extended their congratulations to all the participants and are excited to see how these young designers will continue to influence and shape a greener, more sustainable world.

The Scottish Borders Construction Forum announced the winners of the "Design an Eco House" competition recently at an event held in the cutting-edge 360° immersive classroom at Borders College, Galashiels.

Launched in September 2023, the competition challenged pupils across the Scottish Borders to design homes that prioritise energy efficiency, sustainability, and resource conservation. Participants were asked to envision a house that remains warm in winter, cool in summer, minimises carbon usage, and maximises the recycling and reuse of water, energy, and materials.

After receiving numerous imaginative and thoughtful entries, eight pupils were selected as prize-winners, including a team of six. Their designs showcased exceptional creativity, practicality, and a deep understanding of environmental stewardship.

Willian McDowall (12 years), a winner from Tweedbank Primary School, said: "We feel very proud to have won. We are all buzzing. We'd love to see more houses like our design built in our area and in the cities too! The project had made us all think about how we can contribute to our net zero goals."

This project has been funded by UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Built Environment Month

Built Environment Month - Build Your Future 4 - 29 November 2024

**Parents, Teachers and Built Environment Workers
we need your help!**

- Build your Future will be running at every Scottish Borders Primary School through a range of activities.
- Teachers - get involved, host an activity in your class.
- Parents - check out the challenging and lucrative career options for the future workforce at <https://www.goconstruct.org/>.
- Built Environment Worker - volunteer to visit a local school and showcase your career/skills/experience of working in the built environment.



Scan the qr code for more information on Scottish Borders Construction Forum and how you can get involved.



Build Your **Future in the Built Environment Sector**

Call or Whatsapp Julie Nock on: 07552 365637
Email: bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com

**This project is funded by the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund
and delivered by Southern Uplands Partnership**

Heat Decarbonisation Brokerage Event - Tweed Horizons Centre

SOSE held its first Heat decarbonisation brokerage event last month in the Scottish Borders in partnership with Heatsource.

This is the first such event they have held and with an impressive selection of speakers from and exhibitors from Scottish Government, Scottish Borders Council, social landlords, communities and innovative supply chain businesses all focused on delivery of the necessary investment

locally and regionally and to securing supply chain growth and jobs that will deliver a just transition.

Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies, Heat Networks and Retrofit and supply chain development were all on the agenda.

The next event will be held in Dumfries on 13th November and anyone interested in attending should contact tracy.roxburgh@sose.scot



HeatSource



SOUTH of
SCOTLAND
ENTERPRISE



Businesses in the Scottish Borders can now benefit from **FREE Retrofit Skills Training** at Borders College thanks to funding obtained through the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund.

In collaboration with the Regional Social Landlords (RSL), the College has embarked on an exciting journey to develop and deliver Retrofit training programs. This initiative is a direct response to the pressing need for upskilling to decarbonise the housing stock within our region.

These courses are aimed at employees of social landlords and their subcontractors, as well as businesses based in the Scottish Borders. Course duration, venue and outcomes will vary depending on your needs.

Courses available:

- Air source & Ground Source Heat Pumps Installation & Servicing
- Electric Vehicle Charging
- Heat Pumps Awareness – Advanced Intro
- Heat Pumps – Basic Intro
- Introduction to Domestic Retrofit (Basic)
- Introduction to Domestic Retrofit (NOCN)
- Introduction to Renewables (Electrical)
- Introduction to Sustainable Construction
- Mechanical Ventilation & Heat Recovery
- Unvented Hot Water

To find out more and book your **FREE** course go to:

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

Become a Scottish Borders Trusted Trader!



Archetypes Library and Best Practice Guide

Archotyping is a well-used and powerful tool to understand, profile or segment building stock and to enable retrofit project planning and engagement.

With numerous characteristics that can define archetypes, there are potentially hundreds of archetypes across the UK, depending on the use-case and target audience.

Read case studies and guides at www.nationalretrofit.org.uk



As construction regulations and guidelines change, businesses that are part of a quality assurance scheme could well be ahead of the game. Scottish Borders has just joined a growing number of Local Authorities across Scotland by endorsing a local Trusted Trader scheme.

Business that wish to be a part of the scheme go through a vetting process to ensure quality and consistency. To find out more and get your business on the list call 0333 444 1283 or email info@trustedtrader.scot

The scheme has an annual membership fee of £200 + VAT (£240). This covers the vetting process, administration and promotion of the Trusted Trader scheme.

Web links:

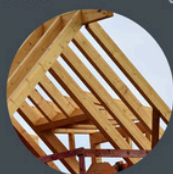
www.trustedtrader.scot

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20004/business/1284/scottish_borders_trusted_trader

Scottish Borders Trusted Trader

..promoting and supporting businesses like yours

Roofer



Joiner

Plumber

Gardener

Tiler

Stonemason

Plasterer



Mechanic

Builder

Electrician

Locksmith

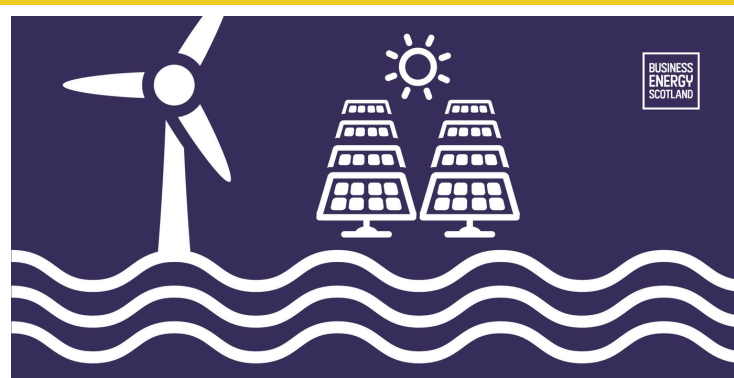
Kitchen Designer

Handyman

www.trustedtrader.scot



Could you take charge of your energy bills with microgeneration?



Did your business feel the pain of recent energy price hikes? Are you wondering what you can do to be more resilient to price volatility in the energy markets in the future?

You're not alone. Many forward-thinking businesses across Scotland – from factories to offices, shops to holiday parks, care homes to community halls – are taking charge of their energy bills by generating their own power.

And the great news is that there is free government support to help you, including free and impartial advice and funding for eligible microgeneration projects.

What is microgeneration?

Microgeneration means creating your own electricity and/or heat using small, renewable energy systems. Unlike big power stations, microgeneration systems are installed right where you need them – on your site.

The main types of microgeneration technologies suitable for small and medium sized businesses include:

- Solar panels
- Wind turbines
- Micro hydro
- Heat pumps

If you would like to find out if your business could take charge of its energy bills by generating its own power, Business Energy Scotland's range of guides, videos and case studies will help you.

And the good news is that Business Energy Scotland is providing free and impartial advice and access to funding to help too.

Read more: <https://businessenergyscotland.org/event/could-you-take-charge-of-your-energy-bills-with-microgeneration/>

National Maths Week Scotland



During October the Berwickshire High School Maths department celebrated - 'National Maths Week Scotland' in collaboration with DYW Borders and some of their very supportive local partners. There was a full programme of events throughout the week supporting lots of levels of maths across the S1 to S6 curriculum.

The week began with PC Carin Tait-Logan speaking to S1's on how maths is used in the Police Force and her experiences of using maths as a competitive rally driver and navigator.

Carin is an ex-student of the school and kindly came back again with her speed gun to work with all our S2's and successful Greenpower Electric Car team to measure $\text{Speed} = \frac{\text{Distance}}{\text{Time}}$ over a set distance in the quad at the back of the school.

We also welcomed Ran Boydell from Scottish Borders Construction Forum an Australian architect who works in sustainable house building. Ran worked with our National 4 & National 5 students discussing his role in the industry and how maths is very relevant in design & architecture when complying with environmental building regulations.

The whole week was also kindly supported by various local businesses who provided their own creative videos of the use of maths in their profession with puzzles & quizzes to support their presentations



Scottish Borders Construction Businesses Wanted



We are seeking construction sector businesses interested in joint tendering for domestic & public sector contracts

**LOCAL
BUSINESSES
WORKING
TOGETHER FOR
BIGGER
CONTRACTS**

We are looking for sole traders and local businesses who would like to bid for domestic and public contracts but may not have the resources to do so.

If you would like to find out about or are interested in joint tendering, collective bidding and trades consortiums please get in touch with Scottish Borders Construction Forum.

This project has been funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund

bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com





Get ready, November is Built Environment Month! It's all about raising awareness of how buildings are a critical part of the net-zero transition, making students aware of the huge range of career opportunities available. We are encouraging every primary school in the Borders to get involved as part of this year's STEM focus. Links to Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) and Learning for Sustainability.

If you would like to get involved in **Built Environment Month** 4-29 November 2024 please contact bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com



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

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/home-energy-scotland-grant-loan>

The next SBCF Newsletter is out in February.
If you have a news item you'd like to include
please email

bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com



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