



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 2500 information fliers through trade outlets, events and direct to tradespeople and provides regular industry news through its Facebook Page.

Planned for 2022/23 are 6 training opportunities, 2 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...

TAKE THE TRADES SURVEY!

GET MCS CERTIFIED - FUNDING AVAILABLE

TRAINING AND INFORMATION EVENTS

DOWNLOAD OUR FREE TRAINING GUIDE

DOWNLOAD OUR FREE ACCREDITATION GUIDE

BORDERS COLLEGE GREEN SKILLS COURSES

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 changing), DEA (energy assessors) and a range of Competent Person Schemes for all technologies and construction sector roles. Download: <https://bit.ly/3SWdgWf>

Net Zero Training Roadshow

**9am-5pm Wednesday 19th October
2022 Market Square Galashiels**

Borders College and SBCF are on the road in October! Come and join us in Galashiels to find out about local courses, funding opportunities and to view some of the latest tech. Staff will be on hand to answer your questions

Come and join us in Galashiels!



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 November 23rd 10am.

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

Project Information

If you would like to keep up to speed on our SBCF projects and initiatives we are posting news to <https://sup.org.uk/projects/scottish-borders-construction-forum/> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BordersConstructionForum>



STEM Hub Open Evening

7pm-8.30pm Wednesday 26th October
STEM Hub Hawick

Drop in to the STEM Hub to find out about training and funding opportunities for sole traders and small businesses to upskill in heat pump technologies, electric car charging, battery storage, solar hot water systems, drone safety and thermal imaging. You'll be amazed by the equipment and technologies housed in the Hub!

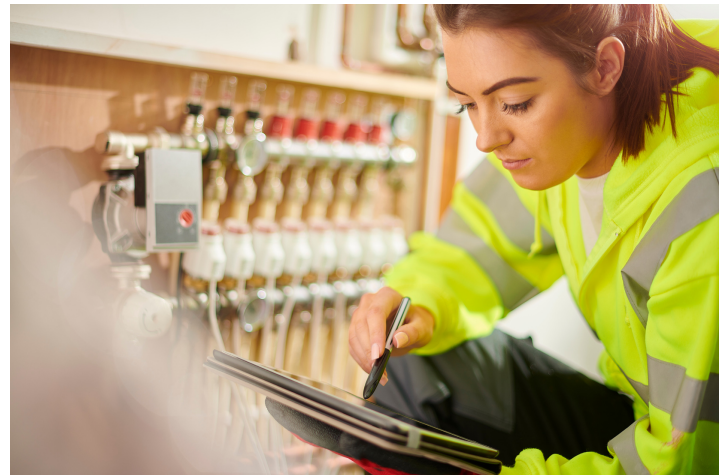
Staff will be on hand to answer any questions and we will provide refreshments and nibbles
Everyone welcome!

BORDERS

COLLEGE



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 Recommendation 2003/361/EC (ie have fewer than 250 FTE employees and a turnover not exceeding £42 million) and/or a balance sheet total not exceeding £36 million.
- 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>

Trades Survey

Borders Construction Forum are currently undertaking a trades and professionals survey targeting those working within the built environment sector to determine their needs around energy efficiency training.

Initial survey results would suggest that the main reason for the lack of uptake is the cost to small businesses and that a well-targeted support structure such as a training fund that would also cover loss of earnings would result in a significant increase in the uptake of training opportunities by local businesses in Scottish Borders.

Those responding expressed a desire for local onsite training which can only be fulfilled though substantial investment in new training facilities and courses as many energy efficiency courses are not currently available locally.

Survey findings suggest that local businesses are not seeking accreditation for their working practices and are reluctant to be members of national trades bodies.

If you work in the construction/built environment sector do you agree with these initial findings?

Please take the 3 minute survey to add your views at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk>

/r/ConstructionSB

or Scan the QR below



Training

100% haven't undertaken any energy efficiency training in the last 5 years

100% would be willing to undertake energy efficiency training if funds were available



Loss of Earnings

90% need a training subsidy to cover loss of earnings

90% require training for themselves



Accreditation

79% are not accredited with an industry standard body



Memberships

Only 37% are members of a trade or professional organisation



Local Training Required

77% would like to have training delivered via a local facility such as Borders College

Most popular subjects include: Retrofitting, Insulation, Ground Source/Air Source, Heat Pump Technologies, Solar PV/Thermal and Energy Assessor Roles

All trade and professional roles have responded to the survey – joiners and plumbers being the most popular.

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:

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

Built Environment Week hosted by DYW Borders and the Borders Construction Forum, will be taking place across the regions schools during 12th-16th September.

We will be promoting careers, learning pathways and the range of opportunities within the sector, covering the trades, traditional building skills, design and planning, sustainable energy, civil engineering and utilities. There are some fantastic resources for students, parents and educators in our padlet - take a look here:

<https://padlet.com/DYWBorders/bl8uqx3s3967x1f>

The next SBCF Newsletter is out in November.

If you have a news item you'd like to include please email

bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com



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