



Scottish Borders Construction Forum



We are delighted to launch the **Scottish Borders Construction Trades Subsidy Scheme**

Funds are now available to cover training course fees and loss of earnings for 8 people to upskill in energy efficiency courses including:

- Electric Vehicle Charging
- Ground and Air Source Heat Pumps
- Solar Thermal
- Solar Photovoltaic
- PAT Testing
- Unvented Hot Water Systems



See page 3 for scheme and application details



Background to SBCF

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 10 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.

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CERTIFICATION
FUND

NEW MOBILE
HEATPUMP
TRAINING CENTRE

BECOME A
TRUSTED TRADER

New Heat Pump Mobile Training Centre

Installers can now receive certified heat pump training anywhere in Scotland!

A new BPEC certified approved mobile training and assessment facility, hosted by South Lanarkshire College is now available to colleges across Scotland to provide heat pump training to heating installers. The service will focus on rural and remote areas and places where there isn't currently college training provision. The mobile centre will also act as an extra training facility for colleges responding to surplus demand for heat pump training.

Installers will be able to visit the mobile centre to be trained and certified on heat pump installations and also to gain their Water Byelaws/Regulations and Domestic Vented and Unvented Hot Water Storage qualifications.

Primarily the centre will be used by colleges to deliver heat pump training. When not in use for training, other organisations with a legitimate purpose can use the training centre.

<https://heatpumpinstallertoolkit.org>

Scottish Borders Trades Subsidy Scheme

Fund Details

In the Scottish Borders Construction Forum 2022 Trades Survey, 93% of traders stated that they would be willing to undertake energy efficiency training if funds were available and 91% said they needed a training subsidy to cover loss of earnings.

Many sole traders and micro businesses stated that the cost and time needed for up-skilling were barriers to uptake as most didn't qualify for support schemes such as the CITB levy.

To target specific skill shortages we requested funds from **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** for a modest training budget which covers both training fees and loss of earnings.

We are delighted to announce that our application was successful and have secured funds to take 8 non-VAT Registered sole traders / businesses through training.

The following courses are eligible for funding:

- EV Charging
- Ground Source and Air Source Heat Pumps
- Unvented Hot Water Systems
- PAT Testing
- Solar Thermal
- Solar Photovoltaic

Terms of SBCSTSS Fund

- Each person/business is limited to 1 application to the fund
- Your business address must be registered in Scottish Borders
- Applications will be considered on a first come, first served basis
- The loss of earnings fund can only be used for course training days

If you are a non-VAT registered sole trader or micro business in Scottish Borders interested in any of the upskilling courses please get in touch for an application pack at

bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com

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



SOSE Enterprise Pop Up Sessions

South of Scotland Enterprise launch latest programme of enterprise sessions.

The latest series of pop-up enterprise sessions that aim to help support and inspire entrepreneurial activity in the South of Scotland gets underway in August.

The free to attend sessions are delivered by South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) across Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders plus a tour of the Built Environment-Smarter Transformation Innovation Centre.

Key Dates for the Construction Sector:

5th September 1-3pm. Built Environment - Smarter Transformation, Glasgow.

Whether you are part of the construction supply chain or taking on your own construction project, this visit will provide inspiration and insight into the developing resources and project solutions available.



<https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/events-training>

The BE-ST campus is a 70,000 sq. ft facility which gives the sector access to a range of state-of-the-art equipment and expertise. The innovation factory offers a range of high-end, often one-of-a-kind product development, manufacturing, robotics, and visualisation equipment. You will get to find out more about the programmes they engage in and view some of the prototypes created as well as training facilities.

21st September, 9.30-12.30. Productivity Workshop, Selkirk.

Industry has been through a challenging number of years that has seen all costs and lead times rise significantly. Experts from the Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service (SMAS) have a wealth of manufacturing knowledge and experience across multiple sectors and from supporting companies large and small.

This half day, interactive, local workshop, will work through an introduction to the importance of a lean thinking approach. Provide an understanding of how to apply the learning in your organisation via introductory tools; process mapping and waste identification that will help you to maximise output and implement sustainable practices.

SOSE have a packed schedule of further sessions. To find out more and to book your place visit: <https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/events-training>

The sessions are aimed at existing entrepreneurs as well as those looking to start up their own business and provide the opportunity to upskill and build connections.



Borders College wins international Green Gown Award!

Borders College is celebrating global achievement after they were announced as a winner at the 2023 International Green Gown Awards in the Climate Action Category.

The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education (EAUC) and Allianz Global Investors, one of the world's leading active investment managers, announced the College as a winner among 93 finalists from 25 countries from across the world.

The winning submission, based on an ambitious project to develop a new Sustainability Strategy in response to the Scottish Government's commitment to be a net zero country by 2045, then went through as a finalist to the International Awards.

The objectives were to implement good sustainable sector practice, influence positive sustainable behaviours across the community, adopt ethical, sustainable social practices in their operations and promote sustainable innovation and technological breakthroughs with stakeholders.

Through a number of groundbreaking projects and initiatives relating to the underpinning themes of Behavioural Change, Circular Economy and Global Citizenship, the College has become sector-leading in many areas, and these were recognised by the Green Gown judges.

See

<https://www.borderscollege.ac.uk/news/college-wins-international-green-gown-award> for full article



Green Gown Awards
International

MCS Certification Fund

The MCS Certification Fund provides heating engineers with funds to pay their first-year fees to become MCS certified on heat pumps.

The grant pays 75% of the certification fees up to £1,000 and runs until the end of March 2024 while funding lasts.

For further information, and to apply go to:
<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/mcs-certification-fund/>

The EST also runs a 'Green Heat Installer Engagement Programme' see
<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/energy-efficiency/green-installer/>

Sustainable Renovation Guide

The Sustainable Renovation Guide describes ten ways in which those involved in the retrofit and renovation of Scotland's homes can improve upon current practice, achieving better energy performance as well as gaining wider sustainability benefits.

The guide includes detailed information and drawings of exactly how parts of a building can be upgraded along with a commentary on practical issues to look out for.

Download the guide at:
<https://www.thepebbletrust.org/sustainable-renovation-guide/>

Become a Scottish Borders Trusted Trader!

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

Get ready for winter by insulating against high energy bills

Free training webinar:
20 September, 10.00am – 10.45am

For many businesses, heating costs can account for as much as half of energy bills. So, the last thing you want to do is to let the precious heat that you've paid for simply go to waste because your walls, roof and floor are poorly insulated.

Unless you're operating out of a modern, well insulated building, now is the perfect time to look at your insulation.

The Scottish Government is currently offering interest free loans with cashback grants of up to £20,000 to support insulation projects.

And by joining Business Energy Scotland's upcoming webinar, you can start to take the steps that could keep your energy bills in check this winter.

Book your place now:
<https://bit.ly/3qCzTp9>



Energy Efficient Supply Chain SPF Funds Awarded

The Southern Uplands Partnership (SUP) has been awarded a grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to undertake five projects around energy efficiency, supply chains, supplier development, education and skills.



Under **Activity 1** we will continue to develop the Borders Construction Forum (BCF), bringing together all those with an interest in sustainable construction, retrofitting, green and energy efficient homes and the supply chains necessary to support these. The BCF is chaired by Borders College.

This project is funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Under **Activity 2** the project will provide fully funded training in key skills areas to at least 8 existing local contractors to allow them to deliver new retro-fitting services. We will continue to work with other stakeholders to promote the need for these skills, the opportunities for training and the barriers that are faced by those wanting to up-skill.

Under **Activity 3** the project will explore the need for and possible structures of, a system to support collaboration between small businesses so they can bid for and deliver larger retrofitting contracts. A social enterprise may be the answer.

Under **Activity 4** we plan to work with the Local Home Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) team to establish a pilot where a number of typical “able to pay” Borders homes can be retrofitted together as a way of reducing costs and delivering energy savings at scale. This would be monitored closely to ensure lessons are learnt and shared.

Under **Activity 5** the project will aim to grow the work already started making young people aware of the opportunity for quality jobs in the sustainable build environment sector. Working with schools, DYW, colleges and universities, we will organise insight days and taster sessions we will engage with young people, their parents and teachers.

For regular project updates go to:
<https://sup.org.uk/projects/scottish-borders-construction-forum/>

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

Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) reform: consultation

The purpose of this consultation is to set out the Scottish Government's final proposals for EPC reform and to seek stakeholder views ahead of the introduction of new legislation. Following this consultation, SG intend to introduce revised Energy Performance of Buildings (Scotland) Regulations to the Scottish Parliament in Winter 2023-24, subject to the necessary legislative vehicle being in place. This would mean that revised EPCs can come into force shortly afterward. To take part in the consultation go to: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/energy-performance-certificate-epc-reform-consultation/pages/2/>

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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