



# Scottish Borders Construction Forum



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**VOLUNTEER  
MENTORS  
URGENTLY  
REQUIRED**

**FREE GREEN SKILLS  
TRAINING AT  
BORDERS COLLEGE  
- ENDS MARCH  
2025**

**CARBON  
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**BUILDING SKILLS  
EYEMOUTH - TAKE  
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## **SBCF Exclusive Site Visit to the New Galashiels Academy**

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Issue 12 February 2025

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Email: [bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com](mailto:bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com)



# Site Visit Galashiels Academy

The last in our series of SBCF Low Carbon and Net Zero Construction Events took place in January 2025 with an exclusive visit to the new (still in construction) Galashiels Academy.

The Morrison Construction team provided delegates from local construction sector businesses with an in-depth tour of the new build and its suite of green innovations.

The new Galashiels Academy is set to achieve the highest environmental credentials for all new capital projects undertaken by Scottish Borders Council to date when it opens its doors for the 2025/26 academic year this September. This includes energy efficiency and consumption, use of natural resources, minimising waste, biodiversity, quality of the internal environment and its contribution towards improving health and wellbeing.

The new school is designed to achieve an ambitious energy target that will see a significant reduction in energy consumption as follows:

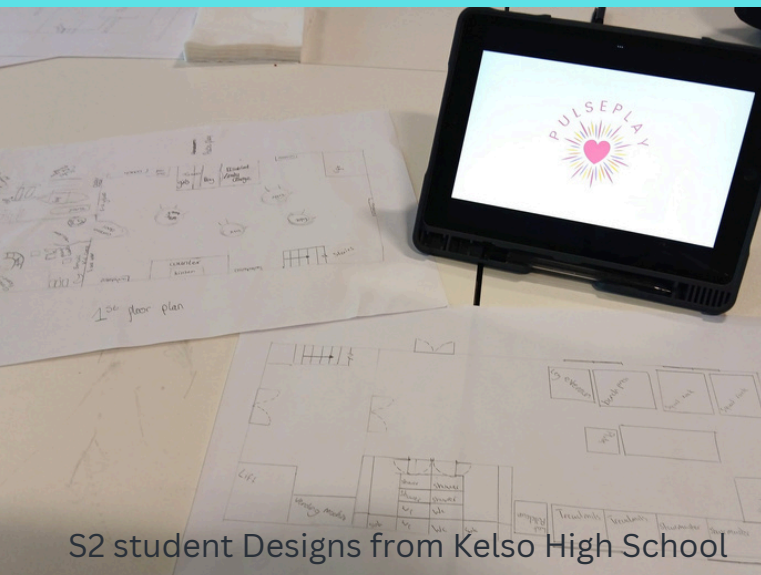
- To comply with the Scottish Government LEIP funding, the building is designed to operate Energy target of 67 kWh/sqm/annum for core hours of 2,000 p.a. This is A rated – currently the best standard for operational energy
- All heating is air source heat pump or electric
- Pool roof is strengthened to take PV
- Air permeability - As a general rule, current building regs require that new dwellings achieve an air leakage of around 5m<sup>3</sup>/hm<sup>2</sup> - Galashiels Academy is 3m<sup>3</sup>/hm<sup>2</sup>. That is the air leakage rate per hour, per square metre of envelope area and is class leading.

*The Low Carbon and Net Zero Construction Events have been funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund*





# Volunteer Mentors Urgently Required!



S2 student Designs from Kelso High School

DYW Borders have recently taken on organising and facilitating the Repurposing Challenges and Skills Days for local High School pupils (S2/3) developed by the Scottish Traditional Buildings Forum.

They urgently need more mentors as the programme is designed to host one Repurposing Day and one Skills Day in each High School per year (18 events). The Skills Days provide experiences for up to 60 pupils with the help of 4 mentors. The Repurposing Challenge is limited to 30 pupils maximum as one mentor is required for every 5 pupils.

The Repurposing Days provide students with an opportunity to look at a disused building or empty site and imagine what it might become. Students are asked to consider the wider community and what facilities are missing (place planning) before redesigning the space. The sessions take them through built environment job roles (to inspire them to look at these as a career choice) so they can choose a role for the day, site measurements, building and site design, site planning and budgeting before a final

presentation session to other groups in their cohort. Its invaluable learning as it allows students to follow a design and planning process and gain experience in team working.

DYW urgently need people to help deliver the Repurposing Challenges for the coming term. They currently have 9 mentors on the list from Scottish Borders Council, Scottish Borders Housing Association and Scottish Building Standards but as the challenge requires a whole day and up to 6 mentors this is not enough, and they have to keep asking the same people to offer up their time.

DYW are looking for anyone that works in the built environment - architects, planners, surveyors, site managers, building managers, property managers, designers, builders, engineers, etc., who might be able to steer the pupils through a planning, design and costing process ( guidance and training will be provided). All the mentors report getting a great deal of satisfaction from working with the young people and really enjoy the experience

Dates for Repurposing Challenges:

28 April 2025 Hawick High School

7 May 2025 Earlston High School

22 May 2025 Selkirk High School

12 June 2025 Berwickshire High School

TBC Eyemouth High School

Please get in touch if you can help by emailing [bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com](mailto:bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com)

Thank you!

**SAT 1ST MARCH 2025 | TAIT HALL, KELSO 10AM - 2PM**

# CALLING ALL EMPLOYERS! APPRENTICESHIP EVENT

Join us at the **Scottish Borders Apprenticeship Showcase** to connect with future talent and help them understand the benefits of **EARNING WHILST LEARNING**.

- Raise your business profile
- Showcase your current and future apprenticeship opportunities
- Ideal for local or national businesses of any size

The event will be open to young people, parents, and anyone curious about apprenticeships.



**SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE STAND TODAY AND BE PART OF THE FIRST EVENT OF ITS KIND IN THE BORDERS! OR CONTACT [AMYHAMILTON@DYWBORDERS.CO.UK](mailto:AMYHAMILTON@DYWBORDERS.CO.UK) FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

Supported by the  
Scottish Borders Local  
Employability  
Partnership (LEP)

Do you offer apprenticeships? Modern or Graduate? DYW Borders are hosting the first ever Scottish Borders Apprenticeship Showcase.

If you have a current apprenticeship vacancy or may have opportunities in the future, this is for you. We are providing the opportunity to showcase your business, whether you are recruiting a Modern or Graduate Apprentice, have in the past or will be in the future then this event is for you. Working directly with students and the wider community, we observe firsthand the lack of awareness regarding apprenticeships, how to locate an apprenticeship position, and what an amazing career path they offer. The roadshow will host a wide range of industry sectors and allow you to source your future talent.

The event will take place on Saturday 1st March 2025 at Tait Hall, Kelso, Scottish Borders. 10am - 2pm. Refreshment stands will also be attending, and we will host a variety of Spotlight Talks throughout.

If you would like a stand, free of charge please complete the sign-up form on this link. <https://forms.office.com/e/LBBYKcCUzK>

The Roadshow will be promoted through all nine of our Scottish Borders secondary school networks and the wider community.



# Introduction to Carbon Management and Achieving Net Zero

5, 12, 19 and 26 March 2025, 6 - 8pm online

*Pattiesmuir*

Edinburgh Napier  
UNIVERSITY

Following a successful pilot in 2024, Abi Truebig and Dr Keith Baker, directors of Pattiesmuir Ltd, will be delivering a second run of their Introduction to Carbon Management and Achieving Net Zero upskilling course for Edinburgh Napier University. The course has been developed by Abi as part of her roles as carbon accountant with one of Pattiesmuir's partner companies and as a PhD researcher at Napier, which is focussed on understanding the professional development needs of built environment and energy professionals, and so is designed specifically for adult learners.

This year the course is being tailored towards housing, the built environment, and construction, and will include a guest session led by Magdalena Blazusiak, a chartered architectural technologist and a

director of the Scottish Ecological Design Association.

The course is being run online as four two-hour weekly evening sessions in March covering climate change, carbon accounting, and carbon management. It's suitable for anyone needing a grounding in these subjects, as well as those needing a deeper dive into specific regulations such as ESOS and SECR. Each session will include a mix of taught content and plenty of time for questions and discussion.

You can sign up via Edinburgh Napier's pages here:

[https://purchase.napier.ac.uk/product?catalog=introduction\\_to\\_carbon\\_management](https://purchase.napier.ac.uk/product?catalog=introduction_to_carbon_management)

And for further details or any enquiries as to how Pattiesmuir can support you or your organisation please email Abi at [hello@pattiesmuir.com](mailto:hello@pattiesmuir.com)





# Funding Ends March 2025



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>



# Building Skills Eyemouth - Survey



## BUILDING SKILLS EYEMOUTH - AN INTRODUCTION

Calling All Tradespeople: Help Shape the Future of Traditional Skills in Eyemouth

The Scottish Historic Buildings Trust (SHBT) is launching an exciting initiative, Building Skills Eyemouth (BSE), to support the repair and conservation of historic buildings in the town while strengthening the local construction skills pipeline. With funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund via Scottish Borders Council, we are conducting a feasibility study to identify buildings in need of restoration and to design a training programme that will equip local people with traditional building skills.

### Why Your Input Matters

We know that skilled trades are at the heart of building conservation. That's why we're asking tradespeople to take part in our survey. Your insights will help shape a training model that works for you—supporting the next generation of skilled workers while addressing the real challenges businesses face in taking on apprentices.

### Building Skills, Strengthening Businesses

BSE is more than a training project; it's an opportunity to build a stronger, skilled workforce for the future. Through our project, we aim to:

- ✓ Identify the barriers to apprenticeships for small businesses and propose solutions.
- ✓ Develop a Pre-Apprenticeship Scheme to prepare individuals for careers in construction.
- ✓ Offer Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities to upskill local trades in conservation and retrofit techniques, ensuring historic buildings are properly maintained as we work toward net zero.

With your input, we can create clear training pathways, support existing trades, and ensure that Eyemouth's built heritage is preserved for future generations.

Have your say! Take our survey today and help shape the future of traditional skills in Eyemouth. Scan QR below



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# Build your Future Skills Day Kelso High School

The skills days not only underscore the growing need for new talent in the sector but also serve as a catalyst in fostering interest and skills in the wider built environment. The sector has many satisfying and lucrative career opportunities for our young people and the skills days have been designed to provide a route into these.

Thanks to Compass Roofing, Borders College, SNIPEF and SELECT for their excellent skills demonstrations at Kelso High School!

DYW are keen to offer further skills programmes and encourage construction professionals interested in being skills mentors to please get in touch at [bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com](mailto:bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com)

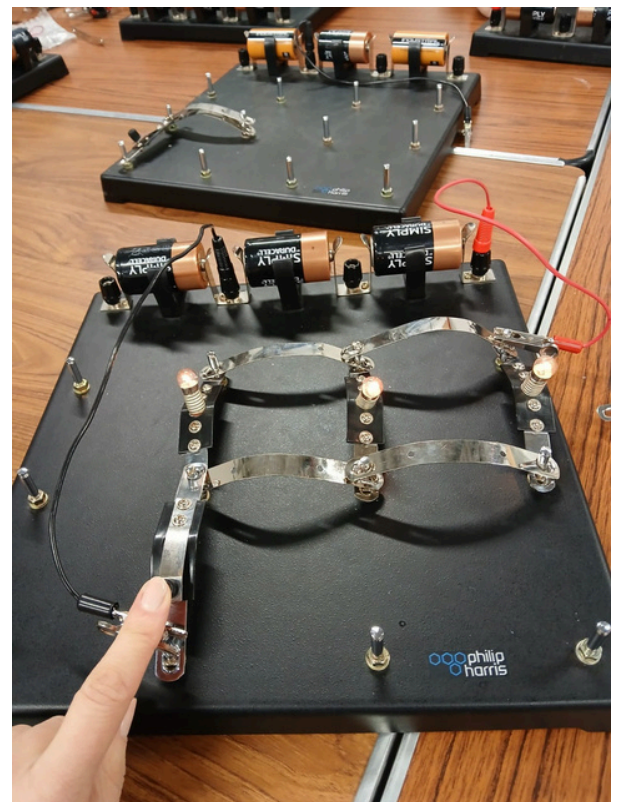


Pulips learn Circuit Design with Billy McRobert from SELECT

43 pupils from Kelso High School recently took part in a Construction Skills Demonstration designed for S2/3 pupils to try their hand at construction skills and learn more about the built environment career pathways available. Skills on offer included Slating and Roofing, Copper Pipework, Electrical Circuit Design and Plumbing.

Organised by DYW Borders as part of the wider Build Your Future programme initiated by Scottish Traditional Buildings Forum students are offered hands-on experience using real tools in a controlled, safe working environment.

The programme offers a wide range of skills experiences from stone carving, and drone flying to painting and decorating where students are shown how to produce traditional scumble glaze effects.



# 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.

Businesses 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](mailto: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](http://www.trustedtrader.scot)

[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20004/business/1284/scottish\\_borders\\_trusted\\_trader](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](http://www.trustedtrader.scot)



## 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.nationalretrofithub.org.uk](http://www.nationalretrofithub.org.uk)



**NATIONAL  
RETROFIT HUB**



# Primary Schools Engineering Design Sessions



As we move towards net zero, we need to significantly increase the number of people working in the construction trades and professions to decarbonise our building stock. Scottish Borders Construction Forum recently delivered a programme of STEM visits to Scottish Borders primary schools in the hopes of inspiring our young people towards a career in the Built Environment.

The Engineering Design sessions used “Make-Do” kits to help students design and build a structure from recycled cardboard, whilst learning how to apply the principles of engineering design, the use of modified construction tools and gain an appreciation of green construction methods. The pupils from each primary worked in groups to design an eco house before constructiong their design using recycled materials.

Balmoral Primary School P7 recently took part in the initiative and their class teacher Mrs Loudon said

*‘The pupils were given a design brief to create an eco-friendly building. They worked together in teams to create buildings that were structured, so that they could generate different types of renewable energy. The discussions between the children were rich, purposeful and encouraging’.*

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



**Funded by  
UK Government**



# 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/>



# 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](http://www.youtube.com/channel/BordersConstructionForum)
- Facebook** [www.facebook.com/BordersConstructionForum](http://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 May.  
If you have a news item you'd like to include  
please email

[bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com](mailto:bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com)



Funded by  
UK Government

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

Delivered by Southern Uplands Partnership