



# Scottish Borders Construction Forum

## Electricians and Plumbers

**Upskill in Heat Pump Technologies, EV Charging or Unvented Hot Water Systems at Borders College and you could be eligible for the Construction Trades Subsidy Scheme**

**The scheme can provide a loss of earnings grant of up to £1000 whilst training for tradespeople registered in Scottish Borders**

See application details and terms and conditions inside

**Fund Closes End August 2024**



In this edition...

FREE GREEN SKILLS TRAINING AT BORDERS COLLEGE

DYW BUILD YOUR FUTURE STUDENT EVENTS

SCOTTISH BORDERS TRADES SUBSIDY SCHEME

BUILT ENVIRONMENT MONTH 4-29 NOVEMBER

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINT TENDERING FOR BIGGER CONTRACTS?

# Are you eligible for the Scottish Borders Trades Subsidy Scheme?

To target specific skill shortages we are offering small businesses a grant of up to **£1,000** to cover loss of earnings. SBTSS is open to traders in Scottish Borders with a personal income below £50,000 per year and can cover loss of earning costs for the following Borders College Green Skills courses:

- EV Charging
- Ground Source and Air Source Heat Pumps
- Unvented Hot Water Systems

**Fund closes August  
31st 2024  
Apply Now!**

If you are a sole trader or micro business in Scottish Borders interested in any of the upskilling courses please get in touch for an application pack by emailing [bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com](mailto:bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com)

## **ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SOLE TRADERS & SMALL BUSINESSES**

**Upskill at one of the following FREE Green Skills Training Courses at Borders College and you could be eligible for loss of earnings whilst training through the SBCTS Scheme**

terms and conditions apply

Eligible courses: Heat Pump Technologies, EV Charging or Unvented Hot Water Systems

**Request a loss of earnings application form from [bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com](mailto:bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com)**

**Book your FREE Green Skills training at <https://www.borderscollege.ac.uk/greenskills>**







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>

# Pupils Explore the Future of Energy Efficiency



Eight pupils from Galashiels Academy recently had an inspiring visit to the Net Zero House at The Energy Training Academy in Dalkeith, gaining insight into the work required for existing and new buildings to reach net zero. Organised by DYW Borders and the Borders Construction Forum, this visit offered S4 and S6 students a hands-on experience in understanding the importance of building and retrofitting to high standards of energy efficiency, a crucial shift within the construction sector if Scotland is to meet its 2045 net zero target. S6 student, Joe Dunkerley, was impressed by the visit, commenting: "I am more interested in the built environment knowing that so many jobs will be available."

Kevin Greenfield, Programme Manager of DYW Borders, highlighted the importance of such educational visits, stating: "The visit to the Energy Training Academy is part of the work to develop an energy efficiency supply chain through creating educational pathways to net zero job opportunities in the built environment. We need to significantly increase the number of skilled trades and professionals to decarbonise our homes and buildings by 2045."

The Net Zero House serves as an educational hub, providing insight into sustainable building practices, and is accessible to individuals of all ages and expertise levels. Andrew Lamond, Director of The Energy Training Academy, expressed his enthusiasm for the engagement of the young visitors: "It was fantastic to see several young people travelling from the Scottish Borders to Dalkeith to learn more about what we do at The Energy Training Academy. With around 50% of all gas-safe engineers in the UK over 50, meeting our Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) installation targets by up-skilling existing heating engineers requires a new generation of talent. We must encourage more young people to consider a career in the heating and green skills industry."

The visit not only underscored the growing need for new talent in the energy sector but also served as a catalyst in fostering interest and skills in energy efficiency and sustainable construction. Julie Nock, Scottish Borders Construction Forum Coordinator, said: "The built environment is responsible for 40% of global carbon emissions, so the sector has a major role to play in the net zero transition. Every house needs to be decarbonized with better insulation, more efficient heating and renewables, which will ensure reliable work for the next 20 years. This needs a diverse range of skills, and the transition is creating many satisfying and lucrative career opportunities for our young people as they look ahead to this changing workforce."

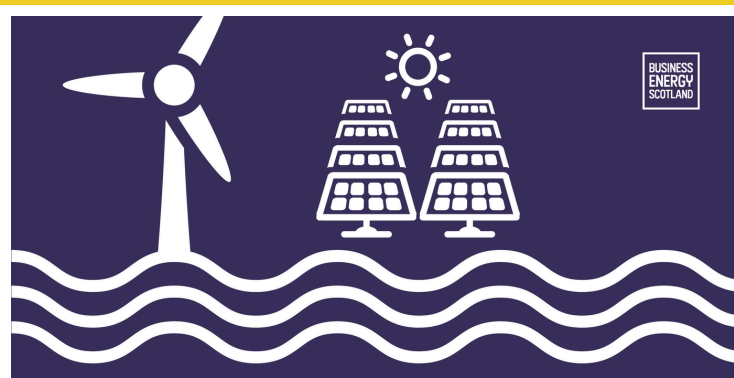


The visit was part of the Build Your Future programme, funded by Scottish Borders Council.





# 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/>

# 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](mailto:bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com)

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



# DYW - Borders

## Build Your Future STEM Visits



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. Developing the Young Workforce Borders (DYW) recently delivered a programme of STEM visits to eight Scottish Borders primary schools. The sessions were designed to inspire students to consider the built environment as a future career choice. The programme engaged 360 P1-P6 pupils from Newcastleton to Eyemouth.

*"I learnt that teamwork is key when working on projects and I found it really fun because you need to work together to get the task done and experimenting with what works and communicating with each other was fun too."* Eve, Duns Primary School, age 10

Schools were offered two activities: Building Energy Modelling used digital tools and hands-on materials to explore how energy is used in our homes such as thermal imaging cameras to investigate where heat was leaking

from the school buildings, a digitally-interfaced model house to show how energy use can be balanced by renewable energy generation and hands-on with some different insulation materials to understand how they help keep our homes warm.

Engineering Design 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 and explore the use of modified construction tools.

*"The engineering sessions were an excellent way to promote STEM skills within the classroom. The learners really enjoyed using the tools and learning about some of the process involved when designing and planning a build. Teamwork was key during the session with learners working collaboratively to share ideas and solve problems in the build. This was a really helpful way to show how valuable working with others is and overcoming any issues the learners might have had when sharing their ideas and listening to each other's ideas."* Lesley Rennie, Duns Primary School

Further sessions are planned for the 2024-5 Autumn Term



The visit was part of the Build Your Future programme, funded by Scottish Borders Council.



# 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](mailto:bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com)





# 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](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)



## 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 until the end of March 2025.

To see if you qualify go to:

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/mcs-certification-fund/>

**energy  
saving  
trust**

## 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)



# 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 November.

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

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



This project has been funded by  
**UK Shared Prosperity Fund**  
Delivered by Southern Uplands Partnership