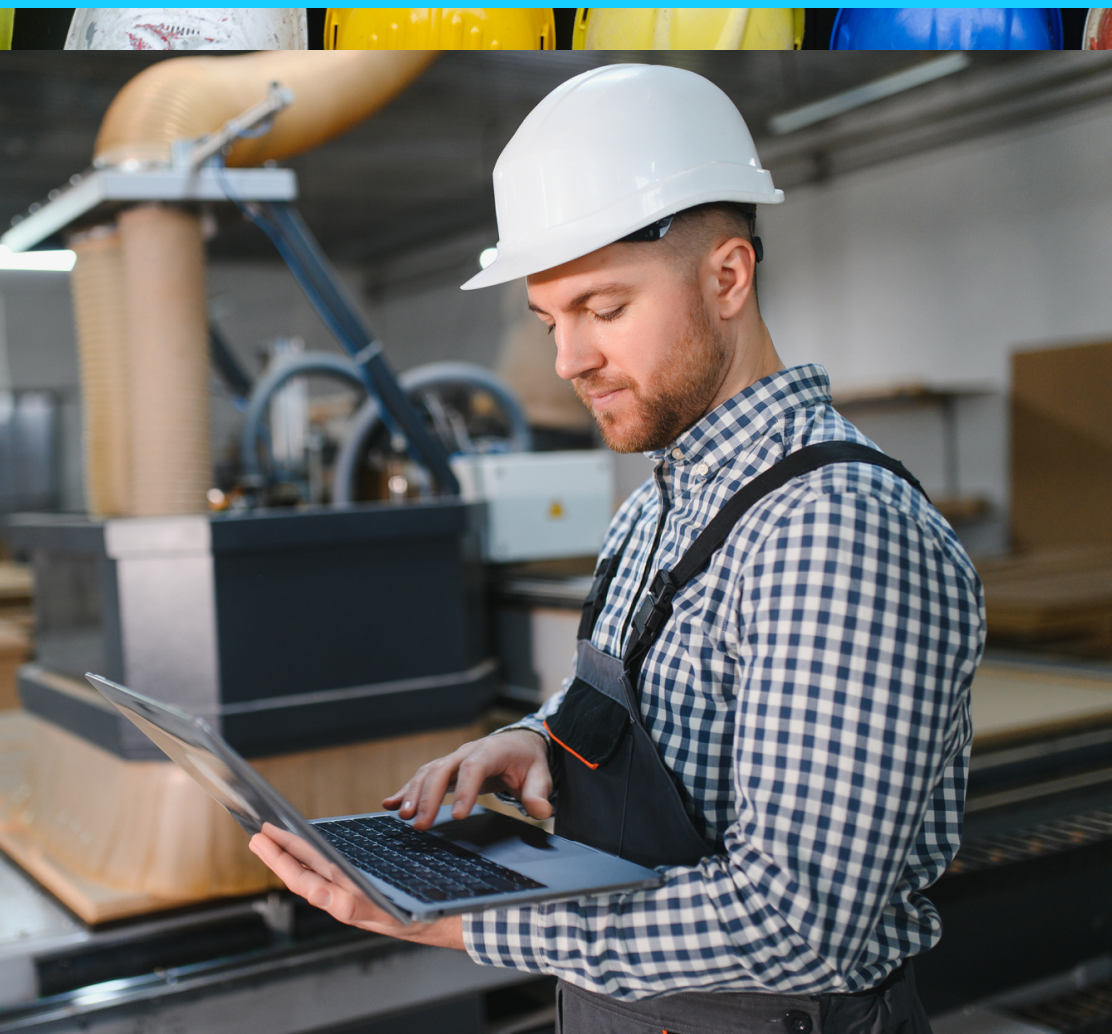




Scottish Borders Construction Forum



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

Get your BE-ST Low Carbon Passport

Free training programme launched to upskill 1,200 construction workers for Scotland's low carbon future

Scotland's construction sector is facing a critical skills gap as it works to meet decarbonisation targets.

To help bridge this gap, Built Environment – Smarter Transformation (BE-ST) is launching the Low Carbon Passport – a course to train for the current and future the skills and competencies needed to deliver high-quality, low carbon, efficient buildings.

Funded through the CITB Industry Impact Fund the programme will train 1,200 construction workers by December 2026.

The Low Carbon Passport course is free to take part in and combines online modules and hands-on, in-person training to give construction operatives, college learners, and more, the knowledge and practical skills to deliver low energy, high-quality buildings.

The training is open to people working across the supply chain – from those new to the sector to experienced professionals looking to upskill. Participants will receive a certificate on completion with the long-term aim for the course to be CPD certified by 2026.

The first online course is now available. Sign up for and take part in Low Carbon Passport 1a: Introduction to Low Energy Buildings [here](#)

<https://bestlearninghub.talentlms.com/plus/catalog/courses/220>

What the course covers

The course is designed to improve understanding of energy efficiency and construction quality, helping to close the gap between design intent and actual building performance. So far, the available learning modules include:

- **Low Energy Building Technology: Fabric** – online and in-person training, covering low energy buildings principles including insulation, airtightness, thermal bridges, moisture control and construction quality.
- **Low Energy Building Technology: Building Services** – online and in-person training, exploring how building systems contribute to low energy performance, including the factors involved in ensuring systems are installed and operating correctly.

Training will be delivered by BE-ST and hosted at affiliated colleges including Borders College.



BE-ST

CITB Employer Networks Funded Training

CITB have now rolled out 'Employer Networks' in the Scottish Borders which makes it much simpler for CITB registered employers to access funded training (no form filling or grant claims is required).

Organising training through the Employer Network is heavily subsidised by CITB (70%) and employers are required to make a contribution towards the cost of training (30%).

If you have any specific training needs as an employer, please contact Stuart Tolmie
Stuart.Tolmie@citb.co.uk

Employer Networks are currently funding a wide range of activities.

Examples of courses which are being supported through Employer Networks (where CITB currently contribute 70% towards the cost) are as follows:

- First Aid
- Health & Safety (e.g. SMSTS, SSSTS, H&S Awareness etc.)
- Manual Handling
- Confined Spaces
- COSHH
- Fire Marshall
- Working at Height (including IPAF (mobile boom, scissor lifts), PASMA, Rope Access, etc.)
- Plant
- And many others...

More information on Employer Networks can be found here: <https://www.citb.co.uk/levy-grants-and-funding/grants-and-funding/employer-networks/>





Many local businesses are upskilling in green technologies such as heat pumps, EV charging and domestic retrofit.

If you're interested in learning more about the courses available at Borders College or would like guidance on selecting the right one for your goals, Borders College are there to help.

Email your enquiries to:

enquiries@borderscollege.ac.uk, and a member of the team will be happy to assist you.

or to find out more and book your course go to:

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

Courses available:

- Domestic Retrofit – an Introduction
- Domestic Ventilation – an Introduction
- Electric Vehicle Charging (City & Guilds)
- Heat Pump Installer (BPEC)
- Heat Pump – an Introduction
- Renewable Technology – an Introduction
- Sustainable Construction and Ventilation
- Understanding Domestic Retrofit (NOCN)
- Unvented Hot Water (BPEC)
- Water Byelaws (BPEC)

Energy Saving Trust

Support Hub

The hub is for small businesses across Scotland working on energy efficiency, heating systems and micro generation. Here you will find research, case studies and online tools to help your business.

Installer toolkits

EST have created a Heat Pump Installer Toolkit and Insulation Toolkit to help you get started on your upskilling journey.

You can find information on college courses, funding, installation considerations and the latest government legislation.

[Start your journey today](https://greenheattoolkit.energysavingtrust.org.uk/)

<https://greenheattoolkit.energysavingtrust.org.uk/>



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 2026.

To see if you qualify go to:

[https://
energysavingtrust.org.uk/
grants-and-loans/mcs-
certification-fund/](https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/mcs-certification-fund/)

**energy
saving
trust**

LET'S BUILD YOUR FUTURE

Access FREE
business support
to think bigger

SOSE IS
HERE TO
HELP!



TAILORED SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

We can help you with business advice and guidance, training, mentoring and even help you access resources and funding. Get in touch today!

0300 304 8888



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



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



**NATIONAL
RETROFIT HUB**

Use your own home installation to gain MCS certification

Are you a heating engineer aiming to become MCS certified for heat pumps? One way of getting certified is to install a heat pump in your own home using funding from the Home Energy Scotland Grant and Loan Scheme.

This hands-on approach helps you learn how to design, install and set up systems, whilst also giving you the evidence you need to apply for MCS accreditation.

What you need to know

You'll receive the same support as any Home Energy Scotland Grant and Loan customer, if you meet the following requirements when you apply:

1. Installer declaration

You must sign a statement confirming you understand the risk: if the installation doesn't achieve MCS certification, funding won't be released. No upfront payment is available. Full funding is only paid once the MCS certificate and all claim documents are submitted.

2. Proof of intent to gain MCS certification

Make sure you have evidence that links this installation to your MCS application, such as a letter from your certifier.

3. Consumer code membership

You must be a member of a recognised consumer code, such as:

- RECC (Renewable Energy Consumer Code)
- HIES (The Home Insulation and Energy Systems Quality Assured Contractors Scheme)

If you want more information contact the Green Heat Installer team at greeninstallerscotland@est.org.uk



FREE Retrofit Resource List

Designing Buildings have put together this amazing resource for anyone working in retrofit.

Its packed full of articles and guides and its all free.

Check it out here:

[https://
www.designingbuildings
.co.uk/wiki/
Retrofit_open_resources
_list](https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Retrofit_open_resources_list)



Sustainable Borders



by Selkirk**Regeneration**



Helping households save energy, save money
and save on emissions, with our
FREE Energy Advice Service.

**Offering FREE Home Energy Visits,
impartial expert advice**
includes free energy-saving measures!



Identifying ways to **save energy**, save **money** and **save emissions**.



Energy bill review and support.



Advice on energy **efficiency** and home renewables.



EPC's for qualifying households.



Information / **referrals** for **available grants**, **schemes** and **loans**.



Using heating controls effectively and **efficiently**.



Selkirk Regeneration
Registered Charity
No. SC037397

 01750 778020

 www.sustainableborders.org.uk

 info@sustainableborders.org.uk

Scottish Borders Supply Chain Opportunities

McTaggart Construction

If you work in any of the following industries and are a trade supplier with multi unit housing experience McTaggart Construction are interested to hear from you.

In early 2026 they will begin work on two new affordable housing projects for Scottish Borders Housing Association in Selkirk and are actively seeking to grow their labour only supply chain.

If you would like further information on any of the opportunities listed please contact Ross Hammell ross.hammell@mctaggartconstruction.co.uk

There will be opportunities in the following Industries:

Civils and Groundworks Contractors

Bricklaying Contractors

Joinery, Timber Kits Erection, Roughing, Kitchens and Finishing

Electrical and PV

Plumbing & Renewables Installer

Roofing and Cladding

Ames Tapers and Decoration

Landscaping

Repairs and Maintenance



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

bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com



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Scottish Borders Council

