



Scottish Borders Construction Forum



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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>

SBCF Low Carbon and Net Zero Construction Events

The SBCF Low Carbon and Net Zero Construction Events planned for the next year continues this month with a Thermography event for trades and professionals.

Thermographic Surveys and Retrofit: A Community Case Study

Tuesday 27th February 2024 7pm-9pm

Corn Exchange, Market Square,
Melrose, TD6 9PN

Thermographic surveys are a great way to help trades, professionals and householders to see with their own eyes, where and how a building is losing heat and can be the first step towards taking action to help people to reduce their energy consumption.

Join Tim Crick, West Linton Community Heat Team and Project Lead, as we look at heat loss in action by taking a view at interiors and exteriors through heat sensitive equipment. Tim will be showing examples of the outputs of Heat Surveys and demonstrating the approach that has been developed to help homeowners stay warmer, save money, and reduce their CO2 emissions

This event will be of interest to architects, designers, insulation installers, builders, property owners and others in the supply chain who are interested to hear about what actions they can take to get up to speed on heat loss and retrofit.

Book your FREE place here:

<https://ThermographicSBCF.eventbrite.co.uk>

Thermographic Surveys and Retrofit: A Community Case Study

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



Scottish Borders Trades Subsidy Scheme



pleased to have gained new knowledge and skills. I can now offer customers a wider range of products and services which will help boost my business.'

With his new qualification, Stephen is now eligible to apply for The Scottish Government's MCS Certification Fund <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/mcs-certification-fund/> which provides grants of up to 75%/£1,000 to heating engineers with an interest in installing heat pumps (either air, ground or water source) to become MCS Certified.

Are you eligible for the Scottish Borders Trades Subsidy Scheme?

To target specific skill shortages we requested and were awarded funds from UK Shared Prosperity Fund for a modest training budget to cover loss of earnings for local trades people.

SBTSS is open to traders in Scottish Borders with a turnover below £110,000 per year and can cover loss of earning costs for the following courses:

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

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

Meet Stephen Bell from Warmstream Plumbing, our newest recipient of a SBTSS loss of earnings grant.

Stephen recently completed training in Heat Pumps at Borders College and was able to access HCI City Deal through Borders College to cover his fees for the 4 day course. Stephen made a successful application to SBTSS for loss of earnings before undertaking training.

On completion of the course Stephen commented 'Gaining the heat pump certification will really help to future proof my business. Heating technology is constantly changing, and I am really

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NRFC Young Roofer of the Year Awards



Congratulations to Hamish Morgan of Hume Roofing and Property Maintenance in Hawick!

Hamish won the Young Roofer of the Year Award at the NFRC Scottish Roofing Contractor of the Year Awards held at The Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow late last year.

He was also awarded the Apprentice of the Year Award at Edinburgh College and won the Scottish heat of Skillbuild which resulted in him qualifying

to represent Scotland at the UK SkillBuild Finals in Milton Keynes in November where he came second for the whole of the UK.

The UK Roofing Awards, hosted by the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) has become an industry-wide event that recognises and rewards high quality standards of workmanship and safety within the UK roofing sector.

As part of their commitment to support the future workforce, BMI Group sponsor the NFRC Young Roofer of the Year award. The award is awarded to a roofer or apprentice in recognition of their hard work and contribution to the roofing sector, through their approach, ability and skills.

Decarbonising Heat in Homes Report

Audit Scotland have just published their report on decarbonising heat in homes. The HIBS sets out a pathway to help reach Scotland's net zero target by reducing emissions from heating homes as much as possible by 2045.

https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2024/nr_240201_decarbonising_heat_in_homes.pdf

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

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 2024.

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



Sustainable Selkirk Energy Events



Sustainable Selkirk are running FREE drop-in session with a range of experts in energy efficiency and home renewables.

Learn some quick tips to save energy at home and save money on your bills. Make sure you sign up for a home energy visit and free energy-saving pack!

Speak to specialists in low-carbon heating technologies and solar PV and find out about what grants and loans are available through Home Energy Scotland and the Changeworks Area Based Scheme to make your home more energy-efficient.

Local Energy Scotland will be on hand to discuss ways community organisations can reduce their energy bills and improve the energy efficiency of their buildings.

Join Sustainable Selkirk In:

Galashiels

Café ReCharge CIC, Galashiels, Wednesday 28th February, drop-in between 3.30 pm and 6 pm

Ayton

Ayton Castle, Friday 8th March between 10am and 12 noon

Selkirk

Scottish Gas Club and Community Net Zero Roadshow, Selkirk Rugby Club, Wednesday 26th April

Email Angela, at Sustainable Selkirk for further information on these events

angela@sustainableseelkirk.org.uk or pop into the centre during opening hours.

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/heat-pumps/grants-and-funding/>

Scottish Borders Energy Event

Wednesday 28th February

Drop-in: 3.30 pm - 6 pm

Café ReCharge CIC

58 Island St,
GALASHIELS

TD1 1NU



Come and speak to specialists in energy efficiency and low carbon technologies



Enjoy FREE soup and sandwiches prepared by Cafe ReCharge CIC



Practical tips and advice

One-to-one advice from Sustainable Selkirk's Energy Advisors

Sign up for your home energy visit and get your energy saving pack

Find out more about grants and loans

Come and speak to;



CHANGEWORKS.

Sustainable Selkirk



A project by Selkirk **Regeneration**

Supporting individuals, communities and businesses across the Scottish Borders to save energy, save money and save emissions

For more information contact: angela@sustainablese Kirk.org.uk  SustainableSelkirkScotland

Sustainable Selkirk is funded by the Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme and;



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

Member benefits from CITB

The Skills and Training Fund SME gives employers up to £10k of Funding for Construction Related Training (depending on company size), their advisers can provide support and guidance for any employers looking to access the Funding, the application process is straightforward and payment (depending on credit check) can be made upfront.

Contact Stuart Tolmie, Stuart.Tolmie@citb.co.uk to see how CITB can help your business

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

bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com



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