



Scottish Borders Construction Forum



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UK Government funding awarded to offer free green skills training

Borders College has obtained funding of £530,400 to facilitate the no-cost provision of tailored skills and training initiatives, aiming to bolster the green economy and enhance the local supply chain for housing. This programme is strategically crafted to optimise the decarbonisation of existing housing stock and elevate the workforce's skills to meet evolving property standards.

The £530,400 funding is part of the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund, awarded to a number of organisations throughout the Scottish Borders.

Katharine Mathison, Director of Enterprise and Business Innovation at Borders College, said:

"I am delighted that Borders College has been awarded this funding to support the businesses in our region by providing the training required in the race to net-zero."

Borders College Principal Pete Smith commented:

"Securing this funding enables us to continue to deliver on the initiative established under the College's Sustainability Academy, prioritising the upskilling and reskilling to support Retrofit and Green Skills, which are crucial to ensuring businesses and communities can benefit from the opportunities arising from the transition to net-zero.

"This training will also safeguard the prospect of well-paid, highly skilled jobs in the future for the Borders and our local economy."

Borders College is collaborating with Social Landlords to establish a comprehensive training programme, empowering them to achieve their decarbonisation goals. Additionally, they will extend this training to local businesses, ensuring their preparedness to meet the upcoming demand for retrofitting.

There will be a wide range of courses on offer, including:

- Retrofit Introduction;
- Health and Safety;
- Air Tightness;
- Thermal Imaging;
- Thermal Efficiency;
- Managing Moisture;
- Introduction to Renewables;
- Home Insulation;
- Retrofit Electrical and Plumbing Specialist Pathways Options;
- Air Source and Ground Source Heat Pump Training;
- Battery Storage;
- Solar and Unvented Hot Water;
- Carbon Management and Literacy;
- Electric Vehicle;
- External Wall Systems;
- Smart Home Control Systems;
- Mechanical and Heat Recovery.

Courses will be on offer from December 2023, and applications can be made through the College website.

For further details on any of the exciting programmes planned, please contact debi@borderscollege.ac.uk

Scottish Borders Trades Subsidy Scheme



awardee when he completed his Water Byelaws and Heat Pump training at Borders College in October.

David, who owns Borders Boilers was delighted to receive the funds and commented 'As a sole trader, it's really difficult to take time out to upskill. The Trades Subsidy and Borders College funds have allowed me to gain 2 new qualifications and I know they will really help my business to grow'.

David was able to access HCI City Deal funding through Borders College for his heat pump training and the SBTSS was adapted to cover his water byelaws and loss of earnings costs.

The Scottish Borders Trades Subsidy Scheme (SBTSS) is open to traders in Scottish Borders and can cover training and loss of earning costs for the following courses:

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

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 at

bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com

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.

To target specific skill shortages we requested and were awarded funds from UK Shared Prosperity Fund for a modest training budget to cover both training fees and loss of earnings for 8 local trades people.

Heating Engineer, David Kenyon became our first Scottish Borders Trades Subsidy Scheme (SBTSS)

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



EST Green Heat Installers Engagement Programme



Training the future low carbon workforce

A partnership approach across sectors is key to delivering training opportunities for Scotland's emerging low carbon workforce. To help more apprentices access low carbon career paths, Energy Saving Trust has launched the third round of the Low Carbon Skills Grant, a scheme funded by the Scottish Government and run in partnership with Energy Skills Partnership (ESP) and participating colleges.

The scheme relaunched off the back of great success and has now doubled in its capacity, from enabling 84 SVQ3 plumbing and heating third year apprentices to be trained on heat pumps in the first round, to 162 in the second, and now with more colleges participating in the scheme, we're on track to providing training to 300 apprentices by the end of March 2023. Subject to gaining funding, we are hoping to continue with round 4 next financial year and train up to 600 apprentices

The heating and plumbing engineers of today installing combustion boilers already have transferrable skills for becoming green heat installers. To help installers get started on their upskilling journey, we have created a Heat Pump Installer Toolkit. <https://heatpumpinstallertoolkit.org>

The toolkit is a one-stop shop for everything you need to know about becoming a heat pump installer in Scotland and has information on college courses, MCS certification requirements, funding, and the latest government legislation.

**energy
saving
trust**

Making the switch to low and zero-carbon heating systems is critical to meeting the 2045 net zero target. The Heat in Buildings Strategy identifies low and non-regret technologies that will be key in this net zero transition and heat pumps have been highlighted as the most feasible replacement as it is a proven technology and they can be used in both on and off-gas areas.

Currently, around 4,000 households per year install low and zero emissions heating. This needs to grow rapidly to at least 64,000 per year by 2025 and peak at over 200,000 per year in the late 2020s. To keep up with the pace and scale required to meet our net zero targets, the green heat sector will see significant job growth, with Scotland needing an estimated 5,100 to 12,700 heat pump installers by 2030.

The green heat transition will mean substantial changes for existing suppliers and businesses operating in the heating sector.

EST's Green Heat Installer Engagement Programme supports industry to get upskilled, discover upskilling funding opportunities, navigate current legislation, and access resources to help their customers

SBCF Low Carbon and Net Zero Construction Events



The event attracted designers, architects, builders and contractors working within the supply chain who were interested to hear about the actions they can take to get up to speed on the construction methods required.

Lead Architect Grigor Mitchell, Malcolm Horsburgh from MEH Builders and David Bethune who commissioned the Passivhaus build in Selkirk were on hand to discuss the overall concept and aspirations of the build (site, low energy and carbon intent, and renewables selection); overall technical background (low carbon systems and materials), the Passivhaus standard and Certification process; and dealing with the complexities and how airtightness was achieved.

Watch this space for more low carbon building visits and CPD events in 2024

The SBCF Low Carbon and Net Zero Construction Events planned for the next 18 months started in Selkirk this October. 27 people working in the built environment joined us for a site visit, presentations and discussions on Passivhaus standards.

The role of Passivhaus-type housing is crucial in moving towards net zero and our event series has been prompted by the recent commitment by the Scottish Government to introduce a Scottish Passivhaus-equivalent standard for new-build houses.

PASSIVHAUS SITE VISIT & DISCUSSION

SELKIRK

Wednesday 4th October 4.30pm - 7pm



Grigor Mitchell Architect



Mobile Heat Pump Training and Assessment Centre



The mobile centre was fully funded by the Scottish Government and is a BPEC approved training and assessment centre. The facility will primarily be used by colleges to deliver heat pump training locally, and targets areas where there is no training provision capacity. However, Borders College will have access to use the mobile centre if there is demand in a rural location”

By 2030 Scotland will need 5,100 to 12,700 heat pump installers to meet net zero heating system targets. Installers based in rural and remote island areas across Scotland must be included to meet this demand.

The project is a collaboration between Energy Saving Trust, ESP, South Lanarkshire College, and the manufacturer, NIBE Energy Systems, and provides flexible training opportunities across the country.

“The launch of the Mobile Heat Pump Training and Assessment Centre is the latest development that will allow industry to access training and assessment facilities no matter where they are located in Scotland. The facility will provide a hugely flexible opportunity for industry to gain the skills required to help us meet the Net Zero targets and we are delighted to have worked with Energy Saving Trust, South Lanarkshire College and NIBE Energy Systems in developing the vehicle.”

Jim Brown, director, ESP

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 Barry Dawson barry.dawson@citb.co.uk to see how CITB can help your business

Get MCS certified for heat pumps

Once installers have upskilled their technical knowledge on heat pumps, they are eligible to become accredited by the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS)

<https://mcscertified.com>

MCS certification is a mark of quality that demonstrates compliance of both products and installation contractors with recognised industry standards. It gives confidence to customers that they are using a high-quality product that will be installed by a skilled and competent engineer.

The Scottish Government's MCS Certification Fund

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/mcs-certification-fund/> provides grants to heating engineers with an interest in installing heat pumps (either air, ground or water source).

The grant has so far enabled 25 businesses to achieve MCS certification (to October 2023) on heat pumps and is open until March 2024.

Scottish Government funded schemes such as Home Energy Scotland Grant and Loan <https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/funding/grants-loans/> and the Small Medium Enterprise (SME) Loan <https://businessenergyscotland.org/smeloan/> require MCS-certified installers for the installation of heat pump systems and other renewables technologies.

Being MCS certified means that installers can also register to join the Renewables Installer Finder <https://rif.est.org.uk/> .

The Renewables Installer Finder helps householders in Scotland find MCS certified installers operating in their area and read trustworthy customer reviews. Installers can reach more than 30,000 customers across Scotland who are looking to install home renewables each year.

One-third of all customers given specialist renewables advice by Home Energy Scotland use the tool to look for an installer, so it's a great way to gain new customers and expand the reach of your company free of charge.



Build Your Future Events Traditional Building Skills Programme



Scottish Traditional Building Forum's Build Your Future programme. The Fallago Environment Fund awarded a grant of £30,000 to the three-year project, which will give all Second Year pupils in the Scottish Borders an insight into some of the skills and career opportunities in the traditional building sector. They get to learn about a range of activities including stone carving, roof slating, decorative finishing, 3D and thermal surveying, and the use of drones in construction.

Fallago Environment Fund Chairman, Gareth Baird popped into Jedburgh Grammar recently to meet some of the pupils taking part in the



Build Your Future Events

Inspiring Young People to work in the Built Environment



Information was available for parents and teachers on apprenticeships (modern and graduate) opportunities, salary scales and job roles in the construction sector to inform and inspire them to consider career paths in the built environment for their children and pupils.

SBCF and partners will be attending further careers events throughout 2023 and 2024 and hope to reach the majority of students in the Scottish Borders

Borders College Eco House working Model
In September, SBCF teamed up with CITB Go Construct, DYW Borders, Borders College, John Laidlaw and Son Ltd and Scottish Traditional Building Forum for the first in a series of events aimed at young people, their parents and teachers to promote careers in the built environment.

350 pupils, teachers and parents attended the Jedburgh Careers Fair and we encouraged them visit our stand to try out heat sensitive cameras, 3D scanners and to pick up information on our 'Build an Eco-house' competition which is open to all Scottish Borders Schools until summer 2024.



Contractors from John Laidlaw and Sons erecting the Scaffolding Tower before the event



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- ✓ Scheme supported by Police Scotland

To learn more visit: www.trustedtrader.scot

Tel: 0333 444 1283 or email: info@trustedtrader.scot



Retrofit Strategic Information Exchange
Monday 4th December 2023 – 13.00-16.30
Inspire Building, Tweedbank
Tickets: <https://RetrofitSIE.eventbrite.co.uk>

Retrofit Strategic Information Exchange

Inspire Learning, Tweedbank, Melrose, TD6 9BJ



Monday 4th December 2023, 1pm-5pm



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



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

bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com



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