



Scottish Borders Construction Forum



The Scottish Borders Construction Forum has been set up to discover how best to help and assist Borders Trades People, Local Businesses and Trade Suppliers (as individuals or collectively) to make more of the opportunities that the transition into energy efficiency and net zero will offer. Such a forum existed before, and its loss has left a noticeable vacuum.

In 2021 a wide range of likeminded individuals, organisations and agencies came together to set up Scottish Borders Construction Forum.

The Forum aims to provide a central point for all construction sector businesses, organisations, sole traders and associated bodies to share information, provide training opportunities and keep the sector informed on market changes.

There is an urgent need to look ahead and establish how to best prepare for future opportunities, especially with regard to the impacts of climate change on the construction sector and through PAS 2030/35

To date the Forum has held 8 Steering Group Meetings, produced a series of 12 Webinars, circulated over 3500 information fliers through trade outlets, events and direct to tradespeople and provides regular industry news through its Facebook Page.

Planned for 2022/23 are training opportunities, Steering Group Meetings and Roadshow events. Like our Facebook page to stay informed.

Our aim is to support local people to work locally and to benefit from the opportunities that energy efficiency will bring.

In this edition...

TRADES SURVEY RESULTS

GET MCS CERTIFIED - FUNDING AVAILABLE

DOWNLOAD OUR FREE TRAINING GUIDE

DOWNLOAD OUR FREE ACCREDITATION GUIDE

BORDERS COLLEGE GREEN SKILLS COURSES

Built Environment Insight Day

DYW

BORDERS
Developing the
Young Workforce

10.00-14.30 on Wednesday 30th November 2022

It's not just building; it's building careers, businesses and a better future.

Employers, employees and jobseekers – join us for:

- Informative Talks
- Workshops
- Marketplace

Find out all you need to know about the career and business development opportunities in the built environment sector.

Topics we will cover:

Net-zero
Construction Skills
Professional Skills
Entrepreneurship

Equality & Diversity
Social Impact
Digital

Location:
Borders College
Scottish Borders Campus
Nether Road, Galashiels
TD1 3HE



DYW Borders Built Environment Insight Day

The Insight Day will provide an exciting opportunity to learn more about careers in the Built Environment, which includes a diverse range of roles in construction, design, property management and energy.

We will challenge stereotypes about what jobs in the traditional building trades look like and explore the latest trends in design and technology, especially around the transition to new-zero.

The day will include keynote speaker and a range of workshops on the themes of:

1. net-zero
2. construction skills
3. professional skills
4. entrepreneurship
5. equality and diversity
6. social impact
7. digital technology

The day is aimed at young people aged 16-25 but is open to all, and there will be some employer-focused events.

This is not a “recruitment” day about specific job opportunities, it’s a chance to get a better insight about the modern construction industry, to talk one-on-one with people working in the field, and to explore how people contribute to the ongoing development of the community.

If you would like to get involved in the Insight Day as an employer please contact Ran Boydell rb@ranaldboydell.com

Insight Day is being supported by Borders College. Heriot Watt University, Construction Industry Training Board, Skills Development Scotland, Developing the Young Workforce, Scottish Borders Construction Forum, Scottish Borders Council and South of Scotland Enterprise

Wednesday 30 November 10:00-14:30 at the Borders Campus, Galashiels
Ticket Link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/built-environment-insight-day-tickets-465675898147>

SBCF TRADES SURVEY 2022 Results Summary

Training



Only 16% have undertaken any energy efficiency training in the last 5 years



93% would be willing to undertake energy efficiency training if funds were available



88% require training for themselves



36% require training for their employees

Loss of Earnings



91% need a training subsidy to cover loss of earnings

Accreditation



Only 26% are accredited with an industry standard body

Memberships



Only 38% are members of a trade or professional organisation

Local Training Required



76% would like to have training delivered at a local facility such as Borders College

Most popular subjects include: Ground Source/Air Source, Retrofitting, Insulation, Heat Pump Technologies, Solar PV/Thermal and Energy Assessor Roles

All trade and professional roles have responded to the survey – joiners, plumbers, builders, architects and surveyors being the most popular.

SBCF Trades Survey Results

Borders Construction Forum undertook a trades and professionals survey targeting those working within the built environment sector to determine their needs around energy efficiency training.

Survey results would suggest that just 16% have undertaken energy efficiency training. The main reason for the lack of uptake is the cost to small businesses and 93% would be willing to upskill if funds could be secured through a well-targeted support structure such as a training fund that would also cover loss of earnings.

88% requested training for themselves and 36% for their employees. Those responding expressed a desire for local onsite training and new courses such as insulation and retrofitting. This can only be fulfilled through substantial investment in new local training facilities for Scottish Borders.

Survey findings suggest that just 26% of local businesses are accredited for their working practices and only 38% are members of a trades body.

Trades and professionals were most interested in training for heat pumps, solar technologies, insulation, retrofitting and energy assessments.

85 trades and professionals working across all sectors (joinery, plumbing, electrical, architecture, building, etc.,) responded to the survey from across the region

Local, Regional and National
ENERGY EFFICIENCY COURSES
for TRADES, PROFESSIONALS and NEW ENTRANTS

As more energy efficiency measures and government guidelines on carbon reduction come into force, the way you currently work may need to change. This may mean that you will require additional training or certification to undertake some types of work. The indications are that demand for this type of work is going to grow significantly and there are real opportunities for local businesses who incorporate energy efficiency into their skill sets.

This leaflet sets out the currently available local, regional and national courses for trades and professionals to upskill and provides a range of routes for new entrants to the construction sector in the Fast Track section.

Indications are that all Trades and Professionals will need to be part of an Accreditation or Quality Assurance Scheme to undertake future works. A separate leaflet is available outlining current routes – please contact Scottish Borders Construction Forum (details on back page) for a copy.

Download our FREE Guides

As part of our Community Renewal Fund work we have been compiling information on all Energy Efficiency courses for trades, professionals and new entrants to help you find the right one.

Our Local, Regional and National Energy Efficiency Courses for Trades, Professionals and New Entrants leaflet sets out the currently available local, regional and national courses for trades and professionals to upskill and provides a range of routes for new entrants to the construction sector in the Fast Track section. The leaflet highlights courses that have access to training funds and if the course is a route to accreditation through MCS.

Download: <https://bit.ly/3pnPPYe>

Finding the right accreditation scheme can be challenging so we have compiled the most requested information into a useful leaflet **Accreditation, Competent Persons and Quality Assurance Schemes**. The leaflet provides information on MCS, Trustmark, OVEZ (electric vehicle changing), DEA (energy assessors) and a range of Competent Person Schemes for all technologies and construction sector roles.

Download: <https://bit.ly/3SWdgWf>

ACCREDITATION, COMPETENT PERSONS and QUALITY ASSURANCE SCHEMES

As more energy efficiency measures and government guidelines on carbon reduction come into force, the way you currently work may need to change. This may mean that you will require additional training or certification to undertake some types of work. Indications are that all Trades and Professionals will need to be part of an Accreditation, Competent Persons or Quality Assurance Scheme to undertake future works. This leaflet provides information on MCS, Trustmark, OVEZ (electric vehicle changing), DEA (energy assessors) and a range of Competent Person Schemes for all technologies and construction sector roles.

A separate leaflet is available outlining current training routes for local, regional and national courses for trades and professionals – please contact Scottish Borders Construction Forum for a copy. (See back page for contact details.)

Borders Construction Forum Steering Group Needs YOU!

If you have a construction sector business in Scottish Borders we invite you to join our Steering Group. The group meets virtually and in person every 3 months for 2 hours to discuss future developments and innovative ideas for construction.

The next meetings are on November 23rd and February 25th 2023

Email: bordersconstructionforum@gmail.com to reserve your place.

Have you registered your business with 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.

Employers with CIS only (no PAYE) can receive up to £2500.

- Employers with 1 to 49 directly employed staff can receive up to £5000.
- Employers with 50 to 74 directly employed staff can receive up to £7500.
- Employers with 75 to 99 directly employed staff can receive up to £10000.

The Skills and Training Fund Medium gives employers up to £25k

- Employers with between 100 and 149 directly-employed staff can receive up to £15,000.
- Employers with between 150 and 199 directly-employed staff can receive up to £20,000.
- Employers with between 200 and 250 directly-employed staff can receive up to £25,000.

There's also Apprenticeship Grants up to £14.5k for relevant Scottish Construction Apprenticeships.

Qualification Grants are available for the achievement of VQ's, Short Period (up to 1 Year) and Longer period (Over 1 Year) qualifications such as HNC/HND and Degree's.

CiTB have a team of Advisers who would be more than happy to engage with employers to ensure they are benefitting from the full CiTB offering.

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

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 and will run until funds run out or until the end of March 2023, whatever comes first.

You can apply for the grant if you meet the following criteria:

- Be an SME in accordance with European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC (ie have fewer than 250 FTE employees and a turnover not exceeding £42 million) and/or a balance sheet total not exceeding £36 million.
- Have at least one registered office in Scotland.
- Conduct heating installations in Scotland.
- Not currently be MCS certified for any kind of heat pump technology.

Apply at: <https://bit.ly/3bVOJjc>

Borders College & BE-ST News

HeatSource

HeatSource is Scotland's Low Carbon Heat Industry Network, bringing together all parts of the supply chain to understand the challenges and opportunities offered by the transition to green heat systems for the Scotland's buildings. Built Environment – Smarter Transformation deliver HeatSource activity on behalf of Scotland's economic development agencies, including South of Scotland Enterprise.

On 3rd of November HeatSource delivered their first in-person event at Borders College STEM Hub, which brought together individuals across organisations who are working in this sector and sought to share what some of the regional opportunities are for local businesses who may be interested in diversifying their service offering to greener heating systems. There were presentations from Skills Development Scotland, Nesta (Scotland) and a panel session with representation from local housing associations, Scottish Borders Council, and SBCF the day ended with a tour of the brilliant training facilities offered by Borders College. If you want to find out more about HeatSource you can keep up to date on their website www.HeatSource.org and you can sign up to their monthly mailing list and find out about future events and activities.



College delighted to welcome Patrick Harvie MSP to Hawick campus

Borders College is delighted to have recently welcomed Patrick Harvie, MSP, Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights, to its Hawick campus. The purpose of the Minister's visit was to hear about the College's net zero ambitions and look at the courses, skills, and projects happening within the College.

The Minister was given a tour of the campus's award-winning facilities and got the chance to speak with staff, students and young people about the renewables training courses on offer.

Mr Harvie said: "Colleges have a fundamental part to play in developing the skills and knowledge we need for a net zero future for Scotland, and it was great to see the role Borders College is playing in this challenging but exciting journey. "Educational institutions like the College have a special responsibility in terms of teaching current and future generations about low carbon technology, and the Scottish Government will continue to support the growth of green skills across the Borders and the wider country as we continue our just transition to net zero."

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:

Borders College & SBCF Events

STEM Hub Open Evening

Thanks to everyone who joined us at the STEM Hub Open Evening in October.

Local sole traders and small businesses joined us for an in-depth tour of the STEM Hub facilities to view heat pump technologies, electric car charging, battery storage, solar hot water systems, drone safety, thermal imaging and green construction rigs.



Information was available on training and funding opportunities for sole traders and small businesses to upskill in energy efficiency through the STEM Hub.

If you missed the opportunity, STEM Hub tours can be arranged by emailing debi@borderscollege.ac.uk

Big thanks to Borders College staff for working out of hours to accommodate the Open Evening!



Net Zero Training Roadshow

Borders College, SPEN, DYW and Borders Construction Forum teamed up for a roadshow event in Galashiels recently.

As you can see from the picture below of the SPEN team taken with a heat sensitive camera, it was a little chilly!

We had a steady stream of students (including some architecture students from India!), tradespeople and curious members of the public visiting us throughout the day to view the various green construction rigs, pick up course information, understand funding opportunities and to talk to knowledgeable staff around the coming changes to the construction sector as we move towards net zero.

We would like to thank all our partners and visitors for making a successful first roadshow event.

We are currently planning further roadshow events for 2023 – watch this space!



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

Looking for a New Career in Construction?

This fantastic site set up by CiTB allows you to browse through 182 job roles to find out what you could be earning, the qualifications you need and how you can progress. There's information on training and you can read real feedback from people already working in the construction sector.

www.goconstruct.org/construction-careers/browse-all-job-roles/

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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