

HORIZON

the sector skills agreement
for building services engineering

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ALL BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERING EMPLOYERS

Progress update on Sector Skills Agreement key deliverables 2008/9 in Scotland May 2009

From a comprehensive three-year Sector Skills Agreement action plan for Scotland, a number of key deliverables were chosen to focus on in year one:

Careers material

As part of the drive to improve the image of the sector, in 2008 SummitSkills launched a range of careers materials under the new Good Day campaign. This campaign was targeted at both employers and employees, to discover how to have a Good Day at work every day.

Two sets of materials were created to target different audiences:

Careers material - careers DVD, interactive game, careers map, case study booklet, skilled worker careers information, technician and graduate careers information.

Employer material - case study booklet, proof that training pays case studies.

In Scotland we launched the new material in partnership with Careers Scotland at an event in July 2008 where we showcased the material to careers advisers, and provided them with packs for use in schools and at careers events. Following the launch, a Good Day careers pack was sent to every secondary school in Scotland

For more information please visit the website www.goodday.org.uk

Employer ambassadors

SummitSkills has recently launched its ambassador programme, where employers volunteer to share their knowledge and experience to encourage young people to consider careers in building services engineering.

We have developed our ambassador programme in partnership with STEMNET (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network), the national organisation promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), who have more than 19,000 registered ambassadors nationally across all sectors.

The ambassador programme has been presented to employers in Scotland during meetings throughout the year, and has been featured in articles for future publication.

We have produced brochures explaining the Ambassador Role, and a Briefing Pack outlining the support material each ambassador will get from SummitSkills to help them carry out this role. You will only be asked to do one event per year.

For more information, please visit the SummitSkills website, or contact Ian Stirrat. Contact details are at the bottom of this letter.

Workplace learning DVD

An interactive Workplace Learning DVD, produced in partnership with the Scottish Government is now available from Ian Stirrat. Contact details are at the bottom of this letter.

Renewables qualifications

SummitSkills is working with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) to develop a range of competence based technology systems qualifications units at SVQ Level 3 that employers will be able to use to upskill in the new range of renewables systems.

The first four units are on solar water heating, photovoltaics, air source and ground source heat pumps. The target date to have these is August 2009.

Microgeneration accreditation systems

The existing microgeneration certification scheme (MCS) developed and run initially by BRE covering solar water heating, photovoltaics, air and ground source heat pumps etc, is both costly and onerous in terms of the process to achieve accreditation, and has not been well received by employers in Scotland.

An alternative scheme that makes the process easier is being developed by all the Scottish trade associations, Scottish Renewables, a number of employers and SummitSkills. This will be based on the model used by SELECT for the Certifier of Construction scheme, which is used to allow accredited operatives to sign off electrical work associated with a Building Warrant. The proposal is to extend this scheme to cover renewables systems, but using a non- chargeable warrant.

A meeting with the government minister responsible for this area has been scheduled for 9 June 2009 to seek his support and allow us to implement our proposed solution for Scotland.

Sustainable entry routes into the sector

Schools in Scotland, in partnership with FE colleges, are offering a range of Skills for Work qualifications (SFW) that give young people a taster of vocational skills, and encourage them to choose subjects such as Science, Engineering or Mathematics.

One of the qualifications on offer linked to the different disciplines in our sector is Energy. However, we have indicated to the SQA that we would like to develop an SFW qualification specifically for the building services engineering sector that could generate interest from young people to consider a career in our sector.

Upskilling the existing workforce

We have submitted a case to the Scottish government to provide support funding to employers in a number of key areas:

- continued support for all age Modern Apprenticeships
- upskilling existing employees in renewables systems
- F- Gas
- Management & Leadership

We are presently waiting their response.

Management and leadership

SummitSkills has developed a three-stage Management & Leadership (M&L) model for Scotland based on a stepped level learning approach .

Following feedback from employers at our Sector Skills Agreement consultation workshops, we have selected bite-sized learning packages in M&L. Stage 1 materials are free, and take from around ½ to 2½ hours to complete, dependent on the topic.

The full list of materials is available in a single document featuring links to each learning package. This document can be accessed from the SummitSkills website under Nations & Regions, in the Scotland section, or click on the link below:

[http://www.summitskills.org.uk/public/cms/File/Stage%201%20\(F1\).doc](http://www.summitskills.org.uk/public/cms/File/Stage%201%20(F1).doc)

This information is also being promoted by SELECT, SNIPEF & HVCA.

Electricity for plumbers

At the request of the Health & Safety Executive and in partnership with SELECT, SNIPEF, SECTT, BPEC, SQA and Clydebank College, we developed new training and assessment material to be used in the electrical part of the plumbing apprenticeship.

This material is also being used to train/assess all college lecturers in Scotland who teach electricity as part of the new plumbing SVQ Level 3.

Contact details

For more information on any of the above topics, or if you have any issues on skills and training, please contact: Ian Stirrat, Operations Manager

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