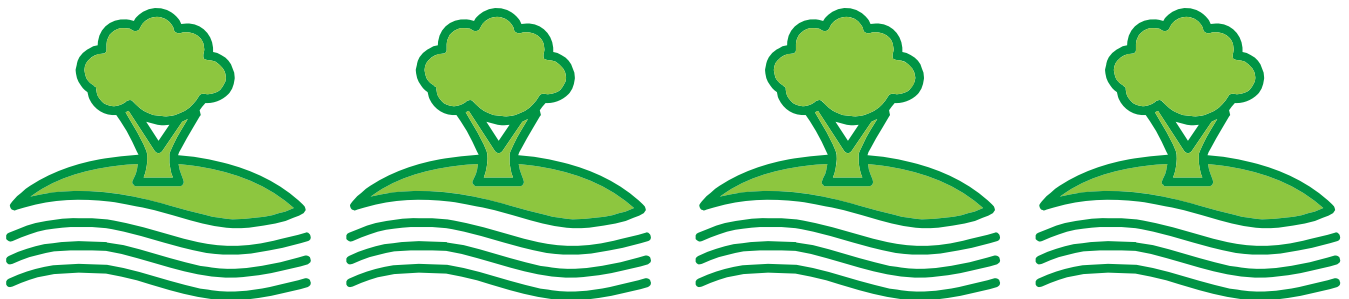


# Landscaping Energy Savers

A well-designed landscape not only can add beauty to your home but can also reduce your heating and cooling costs. On average, landscaping for energy efficiency provides enough energy savings to return an initial investment in less than 8 years. If you were already planning to landscape, these tips provide an ideal way to beautify your home while saving on your monthly energy bill.

- ❑ Landscaping your home for energy efficiency can reduce your heating and cooling bills, the largest component of your home's energy use. Your overall landscaping strategy will depend on your regional climate.
- ❑ Plant trees to shade your home, reducing your cooling costs in the summer months. Typically, newly planted trees will begin shading windows within their first year and will reach your roof in years 5-10. Plant trees on the west and east sides of your home for the most effective shading.
- ❑ Avoid planting trees on the south-facing side of your home because they will block the warm winter sun. If you want to plant trees on the southern side, choose deciduous trees that won't have leaves during the winter.
- ❑ Planting shrubs, bushes and vines next to your house creates dead air spaces that insulate your home in both winter and summer. Plant so there will be at least one foot of space between fully-grown plants and your home's walls.
- ❑ During winter, dense, low-lying trees and shrubs on the north and northeast sides of your home can help protect your home against wind chill.
- ❑ Tree roots hold soil in place and its leaves slow down rain water, allowing the ground to better absorb rainfall. This means less watering is required by you.
- ❑ Trees release cool water vapor into the air through the process of evapotranspiration, so you can run your air conditioner less.
- ❑ Plants small trees or shrubs to shade your air conditioner, but keep them at a distance that allows air circulation to occur.



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