

Landscape Conservation Tips for Homeowners



(Provided by the Safety, Utilities, Service Committee)

Trees and scrubs play a vital role in decreasing the build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and its potential for global warming. Properly planted trees and plants can significantly reduce the amount of energy used for air conditioning and heating. The reduction in electric use for air conditioning is particularly significant, since electric generation is the major source of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States.

Energy Savings

- Sheltering trees and vegetation placed strategically aid in producing cooler summers and milder winters than cities barren of vegetation.
- Appropriate plants suited for the respective soil and available space and sunlight will achieve energy savings.
- Multiple benefits of landscaping conservation include beauty, privacy, boundary definition, food, and bird habitat.

Summer Cooling

- Shading the home from the sun is the principal strategy in landscaping for summer energy saving. Prime target for summer shading are:
 1. Windows and walls facing the west and southwest
 2. Air-condition units
 3. South-facing roof surfaces
- Factors to consider when selecting plants to shade these locations are height (both overall and where branching begins), breadth, foliage density, and growth rate. The size of the area to be shaded, its height from the ground, direction of the sun, and available space all need to be taken into account.
- Trees with broad, dense crowns are generally more effective in providing shade than those trees with narrow crowns.

