

Landscaping to reduce energy use

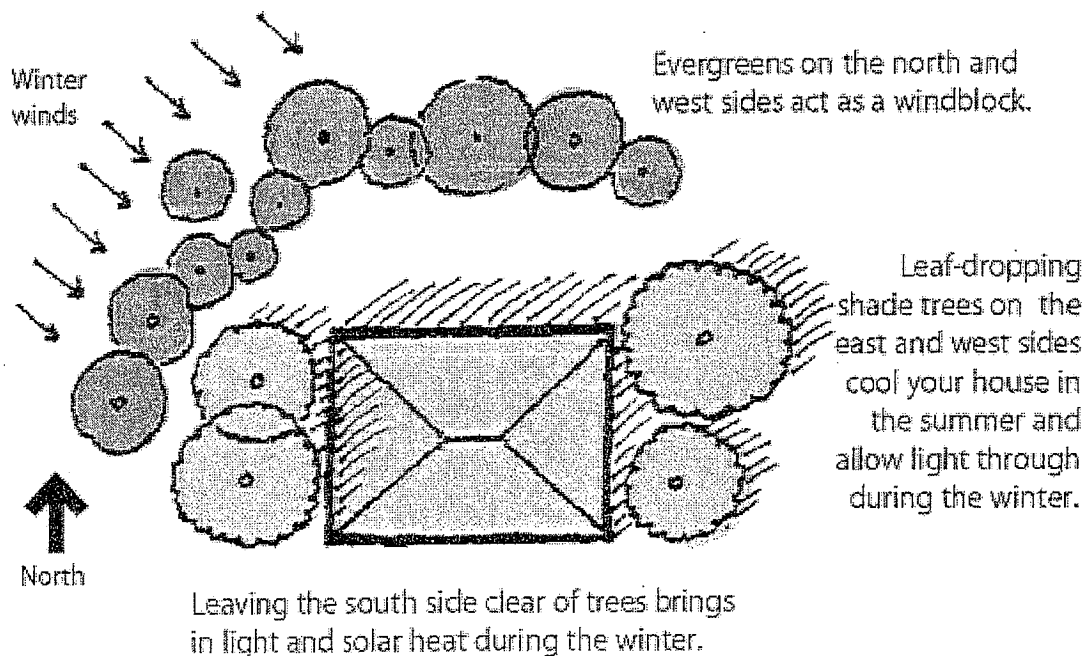
May is a great month to plant trees. Trees benefit our environment and our communities in many ways. Trees:

- » Reduce the amount of energy used for heating and cooling
- » Remove CO₂ and pollutants from the air
- » Catch and absorb rainwater
- » Increase property values
- » Reduce noise
- » Keep asphalt and air temperatures cool

With all these great benefits, think about whether your yard could use another tree or two.

The energy saving design

When possible, plant trees so that cold wind is blocked during the winter, and warm sun is blocked during the summer.



If you let sun come in the south-side windows during the winter, you'll get between 5-20% of the total energy needed to heat your home! Don't worry about the summer sun coming in through the south windows. In the summer, the sun is so high that almost twice as much solar energy comes in the east and west windows as the south ones, especially if there is a roof overhang on the south side of the house.

Shrubs and bushes

Planting shrubs, bushes, and vines next to your house creates dead air spaces that also insulate your home in both winter and summer. Plant so there will be at least 1 foot of space between full-grown-plants-and-your-home's-wall-