Landscaping doesn't only add beauty to your home, but it can also improve your home's comfort and lower your energy bills.

**Top 3 Landscaping Strategies by Climate**

**Energy Saver 101:** Everything You Need to Know About

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### Landscaping for Shade

Shading is the next best cost-effective way to reduce your energy costs in your home and cut on cooling needs. Design your landscape to stop wind. Joining trees and bushes to a windbreak can cut in your home and lower your energy costs.

#### Deciduous vs. Evergreen. What's the difference?

- **Deciduous Trees:** Lose their leaves in the fall and come back with new ones in the spring. They provide the best shade in the summer but allow the sun back in the winter.
- **Evergreen Trees:** Keep their leaves year-round. They provide shade year-round as well as protect buildings from cold winter winds.

### Planting Tips

- **Evergreen Trees:** Plant evergreen trees to shade the house as early as possible. They are low to moderate maintenance.
- **Deciduous Trees:** Start shading your windows in the first year. Depending on the type, it will take 5-10 years.
- **Windbreak Trees and Shrubs:** Install a fence or wall behind your home to stop wind.
- **Groundcover:** Use mulch to keep soil cool in the summer and protect the home from cold in the winter.

### Landscaping for Windbreaks

Pine and other conifer trees are low to moderate maintenance and protect the home from cold wind and snow. They tend to grow quite large and block sunlight, so plant them at a distance of 15-50 percent of the house height.

### Landscaping for Water Conservation

Design your landscape to not only save energy but also conserve water.

- **Drought Tolerant Plants:** Choose plants that require less water. Use low-water-using plants in your landscape.
- **Aerate your Soil:** Aerate your soil and allow water to better deal with water flow---it's easier to use a type of plants that can grow in your landscape.
- **Mulch:** Use mulch to keep plants' roots cool, reduce weeds, and reduce noise and air pollution.
- **Rainwater Harvesting:** Install a rain barrel or other rainwater harvesting system.

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**FACT:**
- The distance your lawn mower cuts into the soil is the distance your landscape will pay for itself in less than 5-10 years.

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**#DidYouKnow:**
- If snow tends to drift in and around your home, plant low plants next to your home.
- Always group types of turf grass.
- Use trees to shade your home from hot summer sun and protect it from cold winter wind and snow.

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**Top 3 Landscaping Strategies by Climate**

- **Temperate Region:** The landscaping strategies you use depend on where you live in the U.S. and your home's microclimate.
- **Hot-Arid Region:** Provide shade to cool your home's walls, roof, and windows. Always group types of turf grass.
- **Cool Region:** Aerate your soil---it improves water flow and better deal with water flow---it's easier to use a type of plants that can grow in your landscape.

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**Sources:**
- Energy Saver (www.energy.gov/energysaver)
- the Energy Department (http://www1.eere.energy.gov/library/pdfs/16632.pdf)
- EPA WaterSense (http://www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor/landscaping_tips.html)