

Energy-Saving Tree Planting

This playbook outlines the steps to select and plant trees strategically around your home to maximize energy savings. Proper placement can provide shade during summer and sunlight during winter, ultimately reducing the need for artificial climate control.

Step 1: **Research**

Research the best tree species for energy savings considering your local climate, soil type, and the size of the tree at maturity. Look for deciduous trees for regions that have a clear distinction between summer and winter.

Step 2: **Sun Path**

Study the path of the sun across your property using a sun path chart or app to identify the ideal locations for planting to maximize shade in summer and sunlight penetration in winter.

Step 3: **Utility Check**

Contact local utility companies to check for underground cables, pipes, or other utilities where you plan to dig and plant trees. This ensures safe planting and avoids future complications.

Step 4: **Select Location**

Choose specific locations taking into account your earlier research on the sun's path and utility locations. Ideally, plant trees on the west and southwest sides of your house to provide afternoon shade.

Step 5: **Purchase Trees**

Purchase the tree saplings from a local nursery ensuring they are healthy and suitable for your region.

Step 6: **Plant Trees**

Dig holes that are as deep as the root ball and twice as wide. Remove the tree from its container gently, place it in the hole, fill it with soil, and water it thoroughly. Stake the tree if necessary.

Step 7: **Ongoing Care**

Water the trees regularly and mulch around but not directly against the trunk to retain moisture. Monitor for pests and diseases and prune as necessary for growth and clearance around structures and power lines.

General Notes

Seasonal Timing

The best time to plant trees is typically in the fall or early spring. This allows the trees to establish roots in milder temperatures before the extremes of summer or winter.

Energy Savings

While savings will vary, strategically planted trees can reduce a household's energy bills by up to 25%, according to some estimates.

Local Regulations

Check for any local regulations or required permits related to tree planting and the type of trees allowed in your area before purchasing and planting.

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