# Energy-Efficient Landscaping

This playbook guides you through the process of designing a landscape that enhances energy efficiency. By using strategic planting and shading, you can naturally reduce your home's energy consumption.

### Step 1: Assessment

Start by assessing your yard's current layout and note areas of sun and shade throughout the day. Consider seasonal changes in sun exposure.

### Step 2: Planning

Create a landscape plan that includes shade trees, shrubs, and ground cover. Position trees to shade the home during summer yet allow sunlight in winter. Include windbreaks to protect against cold winds.

### Step 3: Tree Selection

Select deciduous trees for areas you want shaded in summer but sunny in winter. Choose evergreen trees for year-round windbreaks.

### Step 4: Planting

Plant trees and shrubs according to your designed plan, considering mature size for spacing. Ensure proper soil preparation and watering to establish the plants.

### Step 5: Maintenance

Regularly maintain your landscape by pruning, watering, and mulching. Seasonal care ensures the health of your plants and the effectiveness of your energy-saving design.

## General Notes

### Climate

Adjust your plant choices and landscape design according to your specific climate zone and the unique conditions of your property.

### Professional Advice

Consider consulting a landscape designer or local extension service for personalized advice suited to your property’s needs and local environmental conditions.