

Why Not Plant Shrubs, Grasses, and Herbs?

Adding tree(s) to your landscape plan? Wait! Consider planting shrubs, herbaceous plants or flowers and grasses instead. Did you know that these can be more beneficial for your property and the environment? For example, if planting under roadside powerlines, shrubs and other low-growing plants are best because they will not grow tall enough to affect the electrical equipment, potentially causing outages and creating safety hazards. When choosing these powerlineappropriate plants, strongly consider using native perennial plants as they have a better chance of surviving and are host to native insects and animals.

Other environmental benefits include effective erosion control and minimizing storm runoff/ flooding. Also, grasses and herbs are considered more effective than trees as it pertains to carbon absorption. During wildfires for example, the stored carbon in trees is released back into the atmosphere but when grasslands burn, the carbon stays mostly in the roots and soil, making them more adaptive to climate change. Shrubs, grasses and herbs. Better for your property, better for your power delivery.

*Grasslands More Reliable Carbon Sink Than Trees, UC Davis, 7/09/18

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NES' Online Bill Analyzer Provides Answers

If you have IO minutes and can answer a few questions about your home, our free **PowerWise Bill Analyzer** can:

> Provide a comprehensive energy usage report for your home

Give you personalized recommendations to save energy

Show you how much money you can save!

To use this free tool, visit **NESPower. com**, open the menu at the top right and click on **Analyze My Bill**.



Soak Up Some Summer Savings

Simple home hacks can help you stay cool—and on budget—all season long. Try a few of these energyefficient tips to see savings on your next bill.

Weatherproof for the Win

Properly insulate walls, weatherstrip doors and windows, and caulk cracks to help prevent cool air from leaking out and hot air from seeping in.

Make Saving a Breeze

Run a ceiling or box fan to remain comfortable while raising your thermostat up to four degrees. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Say Goodbye to Stale Air

If things are getting too stuffy, switch on your bathroom fan for an effective way to suck heat and humidity out of your home.

Do Laundry for Less

About 90% of the energy used to wash a load goes toward heating the water, so consider going cold. Then, save even more by hanging washed clothes outside to air dry.

Give Your A/C a Break

Set your thermostat between 76° and 78° when you are home. Each degree you lower the temperature increases your energy usage 6-8%.

Swap Your Air Filter

Cleaning or replacing your HVAC filter regularly can lower your A/C's energy usage by up to 15%. It's one of the most effective things you can do to ensure your system runs efficiently.

Keep the Curtains Shut

Close the blinds on the southern- and westernfacing sides of your home to block out the sun's rays and unwanted heat.

Get Grilling

Using the oven and plug-in kitchen appliances generates extra heat inside your home. Unplug any items you aren't using and opt for more outside barbeques instead.