

Average household reduction of carbon emissions: 1,600 pounds a year

How

Consult a nursery owner or other professional about selecting the right tree for your home. A tree's future size, shape, and overall appearance must be known before purchase. Other considerations are foliage texture and density, flowers, fruits and fall coloration. Some kinds of trees are very particular about sunlight, moisture, and soils. Find out more about trees planting and care from Bridging The Gap's affiliate, [Heartland Tree Alliance](#).

Why

According to the USADA Forest Service and the American Public Power Association, trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30-50 percent and can save 20-50 percent in energy used for heating. When selectively placed around a house, they provide excellent protection from summer sun by shading roof, walls and windows. After the leaves drop in autumn, deciduous trees permit winter sunlight to reach and warm the house. Trees also increase property value while cleaning the air and improving water quality. Plant on the south and west sides of your house