



**FEBRUARY TIP SAVINGS: \$50-\$300/YR**  
**Avoided Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>: Up to 500 lbs./YR**

## **\$USTAINABILITY \$AVINGS TIP**

### **MONEY DOES GROW ON TREES**

***Reduce your summer electric bill with landscape shading.***

Don't you just love these February 70-degree days? Isn't it wonderful being outside and enjoying the sunshine? For many Central Arizonan's it can sometimes be difficult to remember that there are really times of the year when we enjoy the sun. Come August, we'll be seeking out the shade of trees every chance we get, like when we are walking on the sidewalk or looking for a parking space. It just makes sense that our homes can benefit and stay cooler by being in the shade of trees, too.

***Trees provide wildlife habitat and improve air quality!***

Thoughtful plant placement when landscaping can not only save you energy inside your home, but can also be water efficient by utilizing the concepts of Xeriscape. This creative approach to landscaping promotes the use of well-adapted plants, efficient irrigation, and careful design. When designing or renovating your landscape, you should consider creating summer shade around your home with trees, shrubs, or vines. While grass will reduce your home's summer cooling requirements a marginal amount, up to 4%, adding shrubs increases efficiency up to 24%, and well-placed mature trees can cut energy costs up to 42%.

#### **DESIGN TIPS**

- Do a site analysis to determine sun exposures and best areas to create shade.
- Select trees to shade east- and west-facing exposures. Select deciduous trees on south-facing exposures, allowing sunlight into the home during the winter when branches are bare of leaves.
- Shade your air conditioner condenser if possible to reduce air temperatures around the unit.
- Before you plant a tree, call Blue Stake at 811 to find where existing underground lines are located.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The City of Mesa offers free copies of desert gardening guides:

- ***Xeriscape: Landscaping with Style in the Arizona Desert*** will take you step-by-step in the creation, installation, and maintenance of a beautiful, healthy, water and energy efficient garden in the desert.
- ***Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert*** lists over 200 well-adapted plants, featuring photos and specific plant details.
- ***Landscape Watering by the Numbers*** will keep you on track with proper watering and efficiency.

#### **CHECKLIST FOR SAVINGS**

- Request copies** of our free booklets at [www.mesaaz.gov/conservation](http://www.mesaaz.gov/conservation) or call (480) 644-3306.
- Attend an SRP Shade Tree Workshop** and get free trees on Feb. 25, at Red Mountain Library. Register at [www.srpnet.com/energy/powerwise/savewithsrp/shadetrees.aspx](http://www.srpnet.com/energy/powerwise/savewithsrp/shadetrees.aspx) or call 602-325-1254.
- Learn more** about trees on our Arbor Day site at [www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability.ArborDay.aspx](http://www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability.ArborDay.aspx).
- Find books** on trees, desert landscaping and energy efficiency at City of Mesa libraries, or visit [www.mesalibrary.org/research/living-green.aspx](http://www.mesalibrary.org/research/living-green.aspx).

#### **START SAVING**

Start saving on energy costs, while doing your part for *building a sustainable community*. Visit [www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability](http://www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability) for more sustainability savings tips.

*Learn to live Green*