



Landscape Your Way to Energy Savings



RECNEWS

April 2020

Trees can improve air quality, reduce stormwater runoff and even increase the value of your home or neighborhood. Did you know **strategically placed trees can also save you as much as 25 percent on your heating and cooling costs?** As we celebrate both Earth Day and Arbor Day this month, now is a great time to beautify your yard - and reduce your energy costs!

Shade

Planting trees, bushes or shrubs to shade windows, roofs and air conditioners helps reduce solar heat gain in your home, surrounding air temperatures and overall energy costs.

Planting Tips

- Plant deciduous trees, which lose their leaves in the fall, to the south of your home.
- Plant trees with crowns lower to the ground on the west side if you want to shade from lower, afternoon sun angles.
- Plant a six- to eight-foot deciduous tree near your home, and it will start shading your windows in the first year.
- Plant bushes, shrubs or climbing vines with a trellis to shade your patio area.

Windbreaks

A windbreak reduces heating costs by lowering the wind chill around your home. It also creates dead air space that insulates your home in the summer and winter.

Planting Tips

- Plant coniferous trees or shrubs, which have leaves year-round, to the north and northwest of your home to block wind.
- Make the distance between your home and the windbreak about two to five times the height of the mature tree for maximum protection.
- Plant low shrubs on the windward side of the windbreak to trap snow away from your home.

Ready to Plant?
Always visit **va811.com** before You Dig.



There is no cost to homeowners for the service or the extra protection. Know what you're digging into, and remember:
There's Always Time to be Safe!

Cooperative Sunshare: Solar Made Easy

Hundreds of your neighbors are quietly supporting solar power in your community. But you might not realize it because there was no construction, and there are no panels on their roofs. They've taken advantage of Cooperative Sunshare, a program from Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) that lets member-owners buy blocks of solar power without the expense of installing solar panels at your home. The solar power comes from right here in Virginia - from Clarke County Solar Farm in White Post and the Cherrydale Solar Farm in Northampton County.



**COOPERATIVE
SUNSHARESM**

How to Sign Up:

- 1 Log in to your MyREC SmartHub.
- 2 Under Contact Us, select "Report an Issue/Inquiry."
- 3 Under Inquiry Type, select (Cooperative Sunshare) Solar Made Easy!
- 4 Complete the short form and hit Submit!

For a better tomorrow, enroll in Cooperative Sunshare today!
Learn more: myrec.coop/sunshare

Smart EV Charging Pilot Planned

REC expects to soon offer a financial incentive for member-owners to charge their electric vehicles (EV) during times that result in lower costs for the Cooperative. In January, REC filed an application with the State Corporation Commission seeking approval of an innovative, 2-year electric vehicle charging pilot program that would be the first of its kind in Virginia.

How the Program Works

- The pilot will initially be limited to 200 participants.
- All electricity used at the house will be measured by the REC meter and will continue to be billed at the standard rate.
- The electricity used by the EV charger will be measured and tracked by metering built into the EV charger and transferred to REC by the member's home Wi-Fi network.
- Smart EV Charging participants will receive a credit each month when they charge their electric vehicles exclusively during the hours of 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- The credit will be 4 cents per kWh and will appear as a separate line item on the bill.



Learn more: myrec.coop/rates