

Landscaping is an excellent start in the greening of your home. There are various benefits to “greening” your landscape. These benefits include the reduction of air pollution, consumption of natural resources, solid and waste and flooding.

Here are a few tips to green your landscape.

- 1. Use Native Plants-** Native plants have adapted to the local weather and soil conditions and thus require less watering, fertilizing and the use of environmentally harmful pesticides.
 - For more information on Florida’s native plants visit: <http://www.fnps.org/>
- 2. Reduce Lawn Space-** Lawns require maintenance such as mowing, which generates pollution. Lawns can also cause water runoff, which contributes to excess pesticides and other harmful chemicals in local lakes and rivers. Rather than have large grass lawns, creative native plant beds.
- 3. Use Trees to reduce the AC bill-** By planting trees on the property, you create much needed shade for the house in the summer months. The U.S. Department of Energy believe that proper placement of three trees will save the average household \$100-250 in energy costs each year.
- 4. Compost Yard Waste-** Basic yard waste such as grass clippings, weeds and leaves use up to 20-40% of waste in landfills. Composting on your property creates free organic fertilizer for the rest of your landscape. For a compost recipe visit: <http://www.epa.gov/reg3esd1/garden>
- 5. Use Rubber Mulch-** Rather than using wood mulch, use rubber mulch. The rubber mulch is made out of 100% recycled tires. Thus rubber mulch reduces the number of tires that end up in landfills. The mulch also acts as an excellent cushion for children’s outside play areas.
- 6. Use Solar Landscape Lighting-** By using solar powered lights you save money on your energy bill. In addition you utilize a green energy source.

For more green landscaping information visit the Environmental Protection Agency on the web: <http://www.epa.gov/reg3esd1/garden/>