

did you know?

TREES CONSERVE ENERGY AND SAVE YOU MONEY!

Planting trees around your home can reduce heating and cooling needs significantly. In the summer, shade trees planted on the west and south sides of your home can reduce cooling costs by 25–40% and reduce peak energy demand by up to 30%, according to a study by the University of California Berkeley. Evergreen trees planted for windbreak purposes on the north side of your property can save you 6–11% on winter heating energy needs. Shading your air conditioning unit with shrubs allows it to run more efficiently, saving you even more!

what is peak energy demand?

PEAK ENERGY DEMAND is the time of day and time of year when energy consumption sharply increases. In Ontario, energy demand tends to peak in summer afternoons when air conditioners are working hard to keep us cool. This will increase in the event of rising summer temperatures. If peak energy demands exceed production and delivery capacity, this can result in blackouts or brownouts.

Where to plant trees for energy conservation



other spacing considerations ENSURE YOUR TREE IS PLACED:

at least 2m away from paved surfaces or buildings without foundations • at least 3m from buildings with foundations for large trees; 1m for shrubs • at least 1m away from fences and property lines • 3m from hydrants, 1.2m from driveway edges, 4m from light poles, 1.5m from hydro boxes, 18m from stop signs • at least 8m between large-growing trees • at least 2m between small-growing trees
For a printable checklist, visit www.yourleaf.org/CoolCommunities

HELPFUL HINTS

- Make sure your tree is appropriate for your light and soil conditions. Refer to LEAF's species selection guide for further information.
- Consult with your neighbours if you are planning to plant a tree that may eventually reach into their yard.
- Never plant a tree in a raised bed or container as roots will be restricted.
- Make sure you call your local utility companies before digging.
- Ensure your tree has room to grow! Tree roots need both oxygen and access to water so make sure the area around a tree is free of pavement, gravel, interlocking brick or other hard surfaces.