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THE GARDEN PATH

LANDSCAPING ADVICE TO LOWER YOUR BILLS

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With the high costs of heating and cooling a home, it is nice to know that there are simple ways to reduce your energy bills by as much as 25%. To help your home retain heat during the winter months, plant a screen of evergreens on the north and northwest side of your home to provide a windbreak. This windbreak can prevent the cold air from seeping into your house. Conversely, during the summer months, plant deciduous trees on the southeast and southwest sides of your home. These

trees can provide an umbrella to protect your home from the morning and afternoon sun; thus, blocking up to 80% of the radiant heat to help lower your air conditioning bill. Consult a landscape professional to determine the selection of trees that would work best. It is extremely important that mature sizes, characteristics of the root systems, and proper placement are all considered when choosing and planting the trees. A landscape professional will also be able to determine which vari-

eties will be best suited for your unique site conditions.

To save money on your water bill, consult a landscape professional to determine which plants or trees thrive in drier environments. By selecting drought resistant material, it will allow you to greatly reduce the amount of water that you use.

Smart use of landscape material not only helps the environment, but can also be a tremendous cost saver.

By following the advice of a landscape professional, you

can enhance the beauty of your property, while saving money on your bills.

Scott Parker is the owner of Parker Homescape, a design/build landscape firm that has been recognized as one of the Top 10 Landscape Design/Build Firms in the United States and has been recognized locally by Design NJ Magazine, New York Spaces Magazine, The Suburban News and many other prestigious publications.

For information on Parker Homescape, visit their design portfolio @ www.parkerhomescape.com or call 908-490-0449