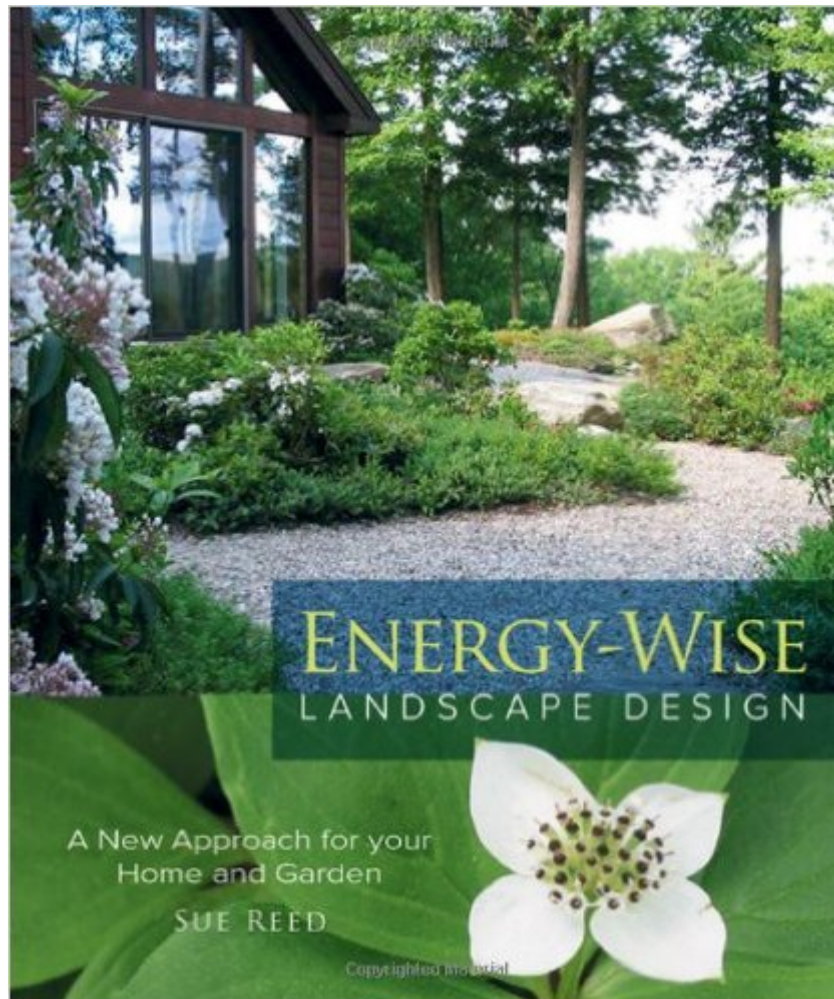


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# Energy-Wise Landscape Design: A New Approach For Your Home And Garden



## Synopsis

Residential consumption represents nearly one quarter of North America's total energy use and the average homeowner spends thousands of dollars a year on power bills. To help alleviate this problem, *Energy-Wise Landscape Design* presents hundreds of practical ways everyone can save money, time, and effort while making their landscapes more environmentally healthy, ecologically rich, and energy efficient. Combining general guidelines with tips, techniques, and actions, this fully illustrated guide explains the many opportunities our landscapes provide for conserving energy.

Readers will learn how to:

- Lower a home's heating and cooling costs
- Minimize fuel used in landscape construction, maintenance, and everyday use
- Choose landscape products and materials with lower embedded energy costs
- Make a positive difference without a major investment or change in lifestyle

Intended for homeowners, gardeners, landscape professionals, and students, the design ideas in this book will work in every type of setting—large or small, hilly or flat, urban or rural.

Written in non-scientific language with clear explanations and an easy conversational style, *Energy-Wise Landscape Design* is an essential resource for everyone who wants to shrink their energy footprint while enhancing their property and adding value to their home. Sue Reed is a registered landscape architect and a specialist in ecological landscape design who has helped hundreds of homeowners create comfortable, livable, and beautiful landscapes that save energy. She is also an experienced writer and teacher whose work specifically focuses on environmentally sound, energy-efficient, and sustainable landscape design.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Don't let the title of this book put you off. This may sound like a technical or an academic publication, but it is not. It reads like a friendly user's manual. It explains how some landscaping design ideas help to conserve energy. With clear and clever illustrations by Kate Dana, and with simple step-by-step suggestions, the author coaches us into creating a sustainable, energy-efficient property. Primarily, the book explains how to help cool a house in summer and warm it in winter, using sun, wind, trees and plants. In addition, the goal of the book is to help property owners use less energy in building, landscaping and maintaining homes and gardens. A long term objective is to reduce dependence on foreign energy and to improve the environment. The book is divided into 7 sections: In sections 1 and 2 suggestions are offered on how to arrange the landscape in order to make houses more comfortable in summer and winter. Included are the role that tree placement plays in providing shade in summer, the strategy for capturing cooling breezes, and reducing ground heat that surrounds a home. The winter section explains how to maximize the sun's heat, plant windbreaks and buffers, and position the home to deflect wind. Sections 3 and 4 provide design ideas for saving energy in the landscape. These include the use of regionally native plants that harmonize with local soil conditions and the re evaluating of the lawn in order to conserve water and operating energy for mowers. This section also offers help in designing properties that sparingly use electricity for outdoor lighting and watering systems.

This book is a must-read for anybody looking to build or renovate a home, especially in the temperate climate of New England, where the siting, positioning and surrounding landscaping of a home can directly influence the energy efficiency and environmental footprint of your property. Sue's book is timely for many reasons. As our utility bills go through the roof and natural resources continue to suffer enormous pressure from development, industry, the spread of invasive, non-native plant species, as well as warming average temperatures, homeowners have every incentive to reduce their energy usage and landscape their properties in a way that contributes to environmental health rather than degrading it further. The book is structured into useful sections such as "Arranging the Landscape to Help Cool a House in Summer", "Situating New Homes with Energy in Mind" and "Fitting the Landscape to the Land", which shares excellent tips for landscaping on slopes. Even if you're in the midst of a current landscaping or construction project, the section "Revise your Ideas to Fit the Terrain" is worth reading before you do any more work! In New England, where every property seems to be situated on some kind of hill, Sue's book will help you understand how to work with the challenges of your landscape and turn them into design

features that enhance your property's beauty and usefulness. Landscaping sections include designing gardens to reduce water usage, how to have a green, healthy lawn without using toxic chemicals, and information on how to properly plant trees and shrubs. Considering that most plant deaths that happen in the first few years occur because of improper planting (by homeowners as well as poorly trained landscapers!), this is advice that will save you money!

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