

# Your Lawn

## Living Landscapes Matter

# BEYOND CURB APPEAL

## Why Living Landscapes Matter for Homeowners

It's no surprise that beautiful landscaping improves curb appeal and increases home value (by as much as 17%<sup>1</sup>). But there are other benefits of living landscapes that smart buyers and sellers should know to protect their real estate investment and the environment.

### HOW DO LAWNS BENEFIT HOMEOWNERS?



#### Improve Quality of Life

Without grass, your outdoor dining area, barbecue, fire pit and other outdoor living areas will be hotter and less enjoyable. Plus, greenspace reduces stress and makes kids smarter.<sup>2</sup>



#### Produce Oxygen

Just 50 square feet of turfgrass produces enough oxygen to meet the daily needs of a family of four.<sup>3</sup>



#### Combat Carbon

Turfgrass is the biggest carbon sink in the country, and lawns sequester more carbon than it takes to maintain them.<sup>4</sup>

#### Reduce Energy Costs



Planting the right living landscapes makes your home warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.<sup>5</sup>

### YOU CAN STILL HAVE A YARD – YOU JUST HAVE TO CHOOSE WISELY



#### Choose the right plants

Select the right grass, shrubs, trees and plants for your climate zone and lifestyle.



#### Don't overwater

Less water makes grass grow deeper roots so it does a better job trapping carbon and releasing oxygen.



#### Brown happens

Grass will go dormant during a dry spell but will "green up" again when the rains return.



#### Diversify

Incorporate native plants with adaptive plants and grasses. Pollinator plants are good for local bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and more.

#### Sources:

1. Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics, <http://bit.ly/1Qe288>
2. Department of Energy, <http://1.usa.gov/119W9E>
3. "Green Spaces and Cognitive Development in Primary Schoolchildren" PNAS (May 2015), <http://bit.ly/1H3FP8e>
4. The Lawn Institute, <http://bit.ly/12K5SLg>
5. Carbon sink, <http://bit.ly/10K5SLg>

For more information, go to:

[opei.org/stewardship/](http://opei.org/stewardship/)

