Environmental Corner

What can you do to...help the planet? clean a nearby stream? reduce runoff? reduce pollutants? cool your house in summer? prevent erosion?

Choose the right (native) plants for your site based on climate, aspect (sun, shade), wind direction, and soil moisture then take a soil sample to see if any amendments are needed to improve plant success. Native plants are better adapted to local conditions: they need less water, less fertilizer, and are more resistant to pests and diseases, plus they have evolved with the local wildlife, birds, and insects.

- Make a plan
- Choose the right plant for your site
- Select plants within your U.S.D.A. Hardiness Zone
- Have your soil tested and make any needed amendments
- Not all plants are equal. Choose the right plant for your site: big or small, for shade or sun, flower or fruit
- Native plants are often selected from areas of the world with similar climate or latitude. They have evolved with different pests and diseases and therefore they are less likely to need pesticides.

To know what to do:
- Choose the right native plants: plant based on climate
- Make a plan based on your needs (play area, garden, orchard, etc.), the soil types present, and climate. In Prince George County the most suitable native plants occur between 4b and 7b of the U.S.D.A. Hardiness Zone, select plants within this Hardiness Range will save you the most money. You can reduce annual heating and cooling costs between $100 and $250 by planting just 3 properly placed trees. When strategically placed, can shelter a home from sun and wind. Studies show that you can reduce peak energy usage by 5% by adding just one tree! Each tree can remove up to 26 pounds of carbon dioxide each year. That's equal to 11,000 miles of car emissions! Help the planet. According to Virginia Cooperative Extension, one tree can remove up to 26 pounds of carbon dioxide each year. That's equal to 11,000 miles of car emissions! Help the planet. According to Virginia Cooperative Extension, one tree can remove up to 26 pounds of carbon dioxide each year. That's equal to 11,000 miles of car emissions! Help the planet.

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