

# newsworthy trends

## Your Home and Yard Can Be More Earth-Friendly

(NAPSA)—Building an environmentally friendly home and landscaping a “green” yard may be easier than you think—with a few tips from the experts at the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Forest Service, both agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Several of the techniques you can use to practice conservation where you live are displayed in a house built by the Forest Service in Madison, Wis.

Here are some examples:

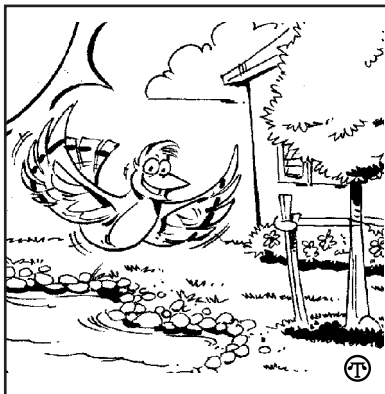
### Building Techniques

The house demonstrates ways to improve affordability, durability and energy efficiency:

- Using proven products such as I-joists, glue-laminate beams and finger-jointed studs.
- Field-testing products such as shingles made from recycled plastic milk jugs, sawdust and waste from other natural fibers.
- Employing code-approved techniques, such as a weather-resistant barrier wrapping the exterior walls and openings to help keep bulk liquid moisture away from the walls’ surface.
- Using high R-value insulation made from shredded newspapers.

### Backyard Conservation

- Planting trees to cool the house in summer and block prevailing winds.
- Collecting rainwater that falls on the roof of the house and using



To get information on backyard ponds, wildlife habitat, and other Backyard Conservation tips for homeowners, go to <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.

it to irrigate plants.

- Planting habitat for wildlife, such as native trees, shrubs and plants that can provide homes and food for a variety of birds, small mammals and insects.
- Recycling plant materials.
- Mulching and composting green waste.

If you cannot take a trip to Madison to see these techniques firsthand, you may want to visit the house at <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/ahrc/researchdemohouse.htm>.

Information on backyard conservation landscaping techniques is available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>.