



RECREATION VEHICLE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Research indicates an RV vacation generates fewer carbon emissions than other forms of travel.

RVs reduce carbon footprint

At first glance, RVing may not look like an environmentally friendly way to vacation, but a new study suggests the opposite.

Conducted by U.S.-based PKF Consulting, a third-party independent research firm specializing in travel and tourism, the study indicates that a family of four taking an RV vacation will generate fewer carbon dioxide emissions than a family travelling by plane, renting a car and staying in a hotel.

"RVers are generally pretty environmentally conscious

people to begin with, since a large part of the RV lifestyle has to do with enjoying and respecting the great outdoors," says Go RVing Canada spokeswoman Catherine Fortin LeFavre.

"What this study shows is that by RVing, Canadians will actually be choosing a greener alternative to traditional vacations."

By analyzing the carbon dioxide emissions of vacations varying in length from three, seven, 10 and 14 days, PKF discovered that in all cases, RV

vacations had less of an environmental impact than more traditional vacations.

"We already know that RVing is a more flexible and cost-effective vacation choice," Fortin LeFavre says.

"Canadians should also know that it's a greener travel option. In fact, many RVers actually park their RVs at a given campsite for days and sometimes weeks at a time, further reducing their carbon footprint when this is the case."

—GoRVing Canada

A green education

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QMI Agency

Like everyone else, the RV industry is going green.

And one company — TRA Certification Inc., an Indiana-based, third-party green certifier company — has made it a mission to ensure this is happening responsibly.

"The biggest challenge is educating the consumer on why green is better for them," says green program manager Mandy Leazenby, "and that it does not equate to a more expensive unit."

TRA is the first company of its kind to turn its attentions to the RV industry, Leazenby says, which is why part of its mandate is educating consumers on why green-certified RVs are not only better for the environment, but better for everyone.

"The units are made with more environmentally friendly materials, so consumers are

buying a healthier product to spend time in," she says.

"But perhaps most importantly, because of the responsible construction and use of sustainable materials, these RVs will last longer and have fewer warranty issues, increasing resale value. Many of the certified companies have extensive quality-control measures and put their RVs through rain booths that ensure a water tight unit."

TRA rates manufacturers in different areas, including resource, energy and water efficiency, indoor air quality and operation and maintenance, and then gives them a rating of bronze, silver, gold or emerald — emerald being the best.

So far, one company, EverGreen Recreational Vehicles, has gained an emerald rating.

Jayco Inc. and Forest River have both been given a gold rating.

And while TRA has only just

begun its efforts to re-vamp the entire RV industry, Leazenby says green is the way of the future for RVs.

"The RV industry has come a long way and RVIA (U.S.-based Recreation Vehicle Industry Association) is implementing more strict requirements when it comes to materials," she says. "Companies that we've certified are leaders in the industry and set a positive example for other manufacturers."

Who rates?

Next time you're shopping for an RV, ask the sales representative about products' green ratings.

Or look for a TRA certification label — RV products that have been rated by TRA Certification will bear a label, which will include the specific rating the unit has achieved.

For more information and to see which dealers have been rated, visit www.tragreen.com

EDMONTON



Is Your RV Camping in the Right Place?



Did you know Edmonton's Zoning Bylaw requires that your RV be parked in your backyard or in a storage facility? It should also not hang over the lane or interfere with your neighbours' property.

If your home has no back lane, your RV can be parked in a front or side driveway from April 1 – October 31, but it has to be at least two metres (6½ feet) from the sidewalk or curb.

For more information please visit www.edmonton.ca/b_laws, or call 311.

