

Go Green with your RV

The idea of “Going Green” has hit almost every industry including healthcare, homes and commercial buildings, but what does it really mean when it comes to RVs?

TRA Certification, Inc., a program marketed nationally by T.R. Arnold & Associates, provides third-party evaluation to the manufactured and modular housing industry. After realizing that there was nothing devoted to the RV industry, they developed a program focusing on Green Certification for RVs.

Basing the standards on those applied to the National Green Building standard for single-family homes, they were able to implement parts of those criteria to the RV industry. However, before specific RVs can be certified, the manufacturing plant must first make the cut to ensure the entire operation supports green initiatives.

Once the plant has been certified green, they can begin to look at the RVs themselves. There are six categories for the RVs: resource efficiency (building design and materials), water efficiency, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, operation maintenance, and innovative practices.

The RV is run through an energy efficient checklist which is designed to give manufacturers a goal. For example, a unit may receive high rankings in water efficiency but score low in resource efficiency. This gives the manufacturer an area on which to focus.

Once a manufacturer has scored enough points, they can become a Certified Green company. However, there are also levels in the certification process: bronze, silver, gold and emerald – which always gives the company a new goal to reach. For example, a manufacturer may have a unit that is certified gold. After a few changes in efficiency, they may be able to push the unit into an emerald classification.

The certification allows consumers to know that the product they are purchasing is truly better for the environment and not just based on a claim by the company.

Evergreen Recreational Vehicles, Jayco, Starcraft, Forest River, Coachmen RV, Columbia Northwest/Aliner, Cruiser RV, DRV, Gulf Stream, and Entegra Coach are all manufacturers that are Certified Green, and they can all be found at the Pennsylvania RV and Camping Show held September 14 – 18th, at the Giant CenterSM in Hershey, PA. With over 900 RVs on display, there is sure to be one that fits your needs and your green goals. For more information, and a discount coupon, visit www.largestRVshow.com.