

Six Simple Strategies for Maximizing Solar on a Small Budget - (Part 1 of 3)



By Shari Galiardi and David Hutchison

@deliberatelifebus

Do you want to go solar, but are worried about the price? You don't have to be! We've been living, traveling, exploring, and thriving all over the continent for the past nine years with just 100 watts of portable solar. Let me repeat that...100 watts of solar for the past nine years for our 72 square feet of living space. Our small system cost us about \$1,000 and allows us to live, work, and play from almost anywhere.

One mistake people make while converting buses, doing van builds, or an RV remodel, they try to duplicate everything from a traditional home into a mobile one. For sure, the copper bathtub in your bus looks amazing on your Instagram page but how much energy and water are required to fill it? And how often will you actually use it?

Instant Pots are all the rage right now, but they also have a very high energy demand. Just because you have the space for ten solar panels on your roof, do you really need that many? Some smarter choices that fit your lifestyle goals, will make your mobile lifestyle more sustainable in the long run.

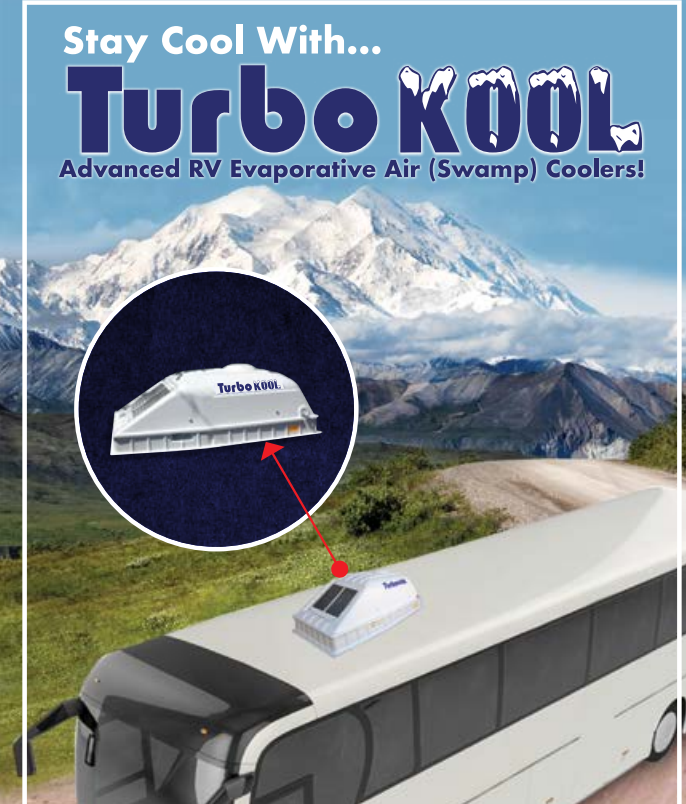
As seasoned tent campers, we thought about our rolling home more like a super comfy, hard-sided tent, than a rolling apartment. This focused us on

powering what we really needed: lights, exhaust fan, charging laptops, and personal electronics, etc. Keeping our needs small, kept our system small, and we've found it enough to sustain our

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