



California to regulate energy efficiency of battery chargers

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The California Energy Commission today unanimously approved new first-in-the national energy efficiency standards for battery chargers, which the agency says waste nearly two-thirds of the energy they collect.

The commission said the new rules will save consumers roughly \$300 million a year, conserve enough electricity to power a city the size of Bakersfield and remove 1 million metric tons of greenhouse gas from the atmosphere -- the equivalent of taking about 75,000 cars off of the road each year.

"Once again, California is setting the standard for energy efficiency, keeping the state's dominance as the most energy efficient state per capita," said Robert Weisenmiller, chairman of the energy commission.

The new rules were supported by environmentalists and California utilities. But electronics companies argued that the rules will add costs to consumer products and don't provide enough time to make the necessary changes.

The new energy efficiency standards go into effect February 2013 for battery chargers used on most consumer products. The new rules for battery chargers used for heavier equipment such as forklifts go into effect in January 2014.

Read more here: <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/01/12/4184172/california-to-regulate-energy.html#storylink=cpy>