Calif. adopts first U.S. energy-saving rules for computers

By Steve Gorman, Reuters

California regulators on Wednesday adopted the nation's first mandatory energy efficiency rules for computers and monitors — devices that account for 3 percent of home electric bills and 7 percent of commercial power costs in the state.

The state Energy Commission said that when fully implemented the industry-backed plan will save consumers $373 million a year and conserve at least as much electricity annually as it takes to power all of San Francisco's homes.

Final approval of the standards at a meeting of the five-member commission in Sacramento capped five years spent developing the rules in collaboration with environmentalists, computer manufacturers and consumer groups.

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