

Japan Plans To Make Appliances More Efficient

The Japanese Government is calling for a 20 per cent hike in air conditioner efficiency under plans to impose more stringent energy-saving standards on home appliances. Manufacturers may have to cut the power consumption of air conditioners by 20 per cent from current levels by 2010, with similar regulations for refrigerators and fluorescent lighting by mid-2007. The decision has been triggered by a rapid increase in household power consumption, which has made it difficult for Japan to meet its Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gas emissions targets. According to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, air conditioners account for the biggest percentage of household power consumption at 25 per cent, followed by refrigerators and lighting equipment at 16 per cent each. Japanese households create about 14 per cent of the country's total carbon dioxide emissions, mainly from using electricity, gas and other energy sources. Electricity accounts for 44 per cent of household energy consumption, about half of which is used to power air conditioners, refrigerators and fluorescent lighting.

[SOURCE ESAA NEWS]