

# Researchers Make Breakthrough with Fast-charge Batteries

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## China News Service

"China speeds up national standard for anti-pollution masks"

A draft of a national standard for anti-pollution masks is expected to be presented to the public by the end of this year.

Face masks have become the norm for many urban residents, yet there is no quality standard for masks for civil use in China.

The national standard will define materials, designs and protective properties, as well as efficiency at filtering small particulates that pose great health risks, like PM2.5.

Factors such as how well masks fit and the degree to which they obstruct breathing will also be specified in the standard.

The standard will classify masks into three types (heavy, medium and light pollution) according to their filtering efficiency.

A standard of masks for children and the sick will also be listed.

## Beijing Evening News

"Beijing subway fares likely to double"

Passengers are likely to pay twice as much as they are used to for using the subway in Beijing.

According to the fare adjustment plans released on Monday, the initial price for taking the subway will be either 2 yuan (equivalent to about 32 US cents) or 3 yuan, and the price will increase according to the distance a passenger travels.

According to new plans, frequent commuters can enjoy discounts ranging from 20 percent to 50 percent, depending on the monthly amount they spend on the subway.

The subway ticket price in Beijing has remained 2 yuan per person per trip since 2007, regardless of distance.

The municipal government sought to encourage the use of public transport and ease traffic congestion on the road by retaining the low price.

However, more than 10 million commuters use the subway every day, making it very crowded during peak hours and posing some potential risks, according to experts.

## Channel News Asia

"NTU researchers make breakthrough with fast-charge batteries"

Scientists at Nanyang Technology University have developed ultra-fast charging batteries that can be recharged up to 70 per cent in two minutes.

The new batteries have a lifespan of more than 20 years – 10 times more than existing lithium-ion batteries.

Currently, rechargeable lithium-ion batteries – commonly used in mobile phones, tablets and in electric vehicles – usually last for about 500 recharge cycles.

This is equivalent to two to three years of typical use, with each cycle taking about two hours for the battery to be fully charged.

Researchers say the batteries will have a "wide-ranging impact" on all industries, especially electric vehicles, where consumers are put off by long recharge times and limited battery life.

The technology is currently licensed by a company for eventual production. The batteries are expected to hit the market within the next two years.

## The Independent

"Number of severely lonely men over 50 set to rise to 1m in 15 years"

Official statistics show the number of men over the age of 50 suffering from severe loneliness in England

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