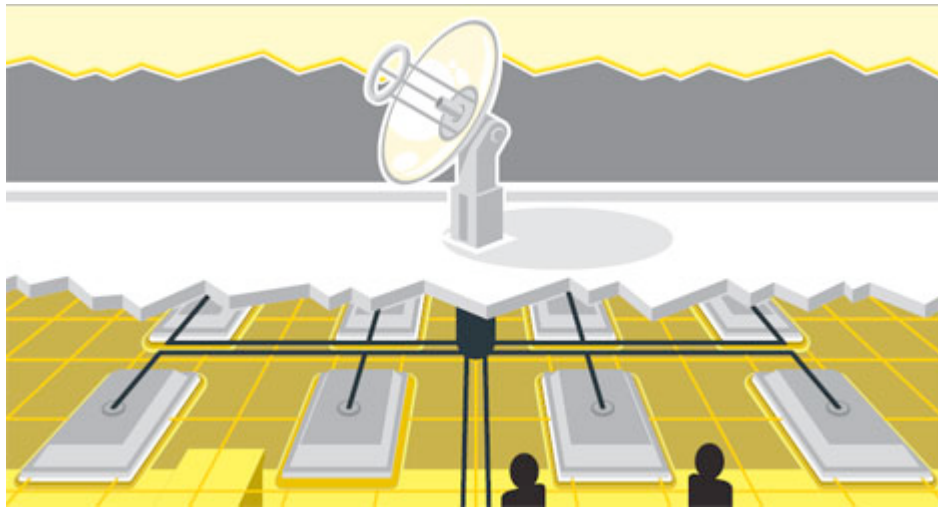


Sunlight Direct's Hybrid Solar Lighting: Fiberoptic Brilliance

THE BEST OF GREEN DESIGN: As much as 90 percent of the energy used in incandescent lighting is shed as waste heat. Natural light leaves the heat where it should be — in the sun.

BY Jim Gorman

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A parabolic dish tracks the sun and feeds its rays into a cable composed of 127 optical fibers. Just two fibers deliver light equivalent to a 50-watt incandescent bulb. (Diagram by Brian Brasher)

Hybrid Solar Lighting by Sunlight Direct channels visible light into buildings through a bundle of plastic optical fibers. These fibers hook into special luminaires that distribute the light indoors. As daylight wanes, a sensor kicks on conventional electric bulbs to maintain a constant level of illumination.