

Unpublished submission - VANCOUVER SUN, May 1, 2007: Dear Editor: More light, less heat

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Here's a simple question my wife needs help with. Incandescent bulbs are "bad" because they produce heat as well as light—they are inefficient. Does this mean that if we replace them with fluorescent types, which produce less heat, in the winter when the lights are most often on, we'll have to increase our heating to make up the difference? If so, why is supplying electricity to our furnace better for the environment than supplying it to our light bulbs? Just asking...

Sincerely

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A more general point is that if your house is heated by electricity, then on very cold days you don't help BC Hydro cope with peak demand by switching off anything that uses electricity inside the house. Your furnace will just stay on longer to compensate. The only way to help is to lower the thermostat settings.