

Green Team: How to shave electric bill

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Angela Lomanto took one look at a reporter's electric bill and said "We can cut this in half."

Lomanto, Theresa Carroll and other members of the Salisbury Congregational Church's Green Team had a Green Expo set up in the parish hall after services on Sunday, April 23.

Carroll explained the uses and advantages of wool dryer balls, which allow for shorter drying times and eliminate the need for fabric softeners.

Plus they make great cat toys.

Powdered dish soap that comes in a biodegradable packet instead of a cardboard of plastic container can be deployed by reusing a small plastic bottle which once held lemonade.

It doesn't take much to do a sinkload of dishes.

Or consider soap nuts. Simply soak these actual nuts (or berries) for 10 minutes or so, put them in a net bag and use in your washing machine. Repeat, up to eight to 10 times.

Carroll was asked if they work.

"Smell me," she said.

Lomanto punched up a website — powersetter.com — listing providers that charge significantly less per kilowatt hour than Ever-



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Theresa Carroll of the Salisbury Congregational Church's Green Team demonstrated how to use wool balls to improve dryer performance and amuse your cat.

source.

As in about half as much — 12.49 cents per kwh from Direct Energy, compared to 24.179 cents per kwh from Eversource.

Lomanto cautioned that these savings only apply to the electric side of the bill, not the delivery charges.

But this reporter's back-of-the-envelope calculation is

that the \$95 March bill could have been \$65, which would free up funds for vital items.

The Green Team had a handout with product de-

scriptions and website addresses, which will be posted on the church website, www.salisburycongregational-church.org