

## (Banner) ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Caption: The pre-press twin ram

Baler manufacturer and recycling equipment engineers Middleton Engineering demonstrated what it claims is the industry's first cost-effective plastic strapping solution for baled refuse derived fuel (RDF) on the new Middleton prepress twin ram baler at RWM in partnership with CIWM last month.

Middleton's revolutionary automatic Twin Tying head (patent pending) turns the twin ram into being the first baler to combine both wire and plastic tie capabilities on the same machine, making it very quick to switch from different waste streams such as cardboard, which requires wire ties, to RDF which uses plastic.

This same plastic strapping solution can be retrofitted as a straightforward upgrade for practically any make of twin ram baler in use today, and would replace conventional steel wire tying systems, claims the company. Plastic strapping on twin rams provides waste and recycling operators with a more cost-effective solution for baled waste and one that is particularly well suited to plants focussed on RDF or intending to increase RDF capacity.

Up to 40% cheaper than steel wire, plastic strapping is extremely strong and also fully combustible, making it a far more acceptable product for energy from waste plants, which typically charge a premium for processing product tied with steel wire, says Middleton's.

The innovation allows most existing balers to be upgraded without costly replacement, which in turn will help to reduce waste recycling overheads and should attract more waste operators to process RDF material.

Middleton's technical director Mark Smith said: "Trials with Biffa have proven this technology works and is viable. We think this solution could potentially lead to much more RDF being produced in the UK and energy recovered, bringing a worthwhile greater reduction in landfill."

[www.middletonengineering.co.uk](http://www.middletonengineering.co.uk)