W&S Recycling takes on rigid plastics with Twin Ram Baler from Middleton Engineering

- *Diverting hard plastics from landfill and creating large, dense bales which mean cost savings in terms of fuel, transport and handling*

Glastonbury, 21 October, 2014: Expanding waste management company W&S Recycling Services based in Poole, Dorset, has taken delivery of a powerful Twin-Ram Baler from Middleton Engineering as part of a new venture to recycle rigid plastics from Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and commercial customers across Dorset.

The company, which provides waste management services to the Dorset Waste Partnership, Bournemouth Borough Council, Oxfordshire County Council and commercial customers nationally, already manages a wide range of waste streams with the goal to maximise recycling and minimise waste to landfill.

The new ME2R100 from Middleton Engineering now installed at the company's recycling depot in Hurn, Christchurch, will make it easier to bale and recycle a range of hard plastics such as PP, PE and PVC waste, including toys, crates and garden furniture, a commodity which has traditionally gone straight to landfill.

Andy Tyers, Operations Manager for W&S Recycling explains: "Diverting rigid plastics from landfill is an obvious next step for us as we expand our operations and capabilities. It's a commodity that has been traditionally hard to deal with partly because of the number of mixed polymers involved, quality of product and sheer bulk of the material. The new baler will make the product far easier to deal with."

To date, the new service has been rolled out to three Household Waste Recovery Centres in Dorset and Tyler expects to be processing between 1200 and 1500 tonnes of **rigid plastics** a year when commissioning and testing is completed and all 12 HWRCs are included in the scheme.

The state-of-the-art Twin Ram Baler delivers a **press force of 100 tonnes** and is ideally suited to dealing with hard plastics, enabling W&S Recycling operators to produce high quality, compact and dense bales. "Transporting loose material is expensive and you would be lucky to get 3 tonnes per lorry load" explains Tyler. "The new baler will enable us to achieve between 19 and 20 tonnes a load which is a **huge cost saving in terms of fuel, transport and handling**. It is also far more attractive for processors in the UK and export markets."

W&S selected a plastic strapping head, partly because plastic straps are very much cheaper, a third the price of traditional steel wire and also because there is complete flexibility over the number of straps used. “This is important as different plastics expand at different rates as they are expressed from the machine and want to reform back to the original,” says Tyler. Plastic straps are also far more attractive to the processors as the whole bale can then be recycled straps and all. The machine is also fully future proofed with the facility to add a wire tying head or a Middleton dual tying head should it be switched to a different waste stream.

Shoehorning the machine into a very tight space set some initial challenges, however Middleton Engineering visited the site, measured up, prepared drawings and then delivered and commissioned the machine, all to schedule, with operator training included. Modifications to enlarge the hopper opening were also carried out as W&S Recycling will be feeding material with a large bucket loader rather than a conveyor.

Andy Tyers concludes: “Training is a key issue so that the staff understands what plastics and polymer types we can handle and to advise customers visiting our recycling centres with appropriate information. The good news now is that Dorset is ahead of the game - we are making easier for customers to recycle more of their waste and diverting more from landfill.”

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