



## Retrofit Plastic Strapping System for RDF Piloted at Biffa Recycling Plant

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Glastonbury, UK based waste baling equipment manufacturer, Middletons Engineering has developed a RDF plastic strapping solution to retrofit Biffa's balers - reducing gate fees at [waste to energy](#) plants.

According to Middletons, until recently, the conventional method for tying baled refuse derived fuel (RDF) has been to use steel wire with twin ram balers.

However, the company claimed that plastic strapping more environmentally friendly, as it uses recycled PET (Polyester) and can also be 40% cheaper, as well as being combustible - making it ideal for waste to energy applications.

At Biffa's Dewsbury [recycling](#) plant in Yorkshire, twin ram balers are used to give greater compaction and so reduce [transportation](#) costs. According to Middletons, with plastic strapping they can also now avoid the £5 per tonne premium that waste to energy plants charge for processing bales tied with steel wire.

Together, the company said that these will equate to significant savings for Biffa's Dewsbury plant, which processes 60,000 - 70,000 thousand tonnes of waste per year.

To investigate the viability of the pilot, Biffa turned to Middletons, which has been providing balers and recycling equipment to Biffa in Bradford, Cardiff, Grimsby, Hull, the Isle of Wight and Dewsbury for over 15 years.

After extensive research, the baler manufacturer said that it designed and built a solution that will integrate the PET strapping system with any twin ram baler.

Additionally, the manufacturer said that it overcame the tendency of RDF material to expand when it exits the baler and, after further modifications and the addition of a specially engineered 'spout' to hold the material in place while strapping is completed.

The company added that the pilot is now successfully running at Biffa's Dewsbury plant.

"Now we know how best to retrofit a plastic strapping system onto any make and model of baler we can help the hundreds of organisations out there who currently use twin ram balers to reduce transportation costs," commented Middleton Engineering's technical director Mark Smith.