



**In
the Bag**

FILMSCRIPTS ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

This script is one of a series published to help lecturers, teachers, and group leaders prepare for viewing and discussion of solid waste management films. It is also intended for those in an audience who want a permanent record of the data presented in a film. It was written by Stuart Finley, Inc., the producer of the film, in close cooperation with staff of the Federal solid waste management program.

Titles and publication numbers of scripts for solid waste management films are shown below.

The Third Pollution SW-39c.1
Burn, Bury, or What? SW-39c.2
Recycling SW-39c.3
5000 Dumps SW-39c.4
In the Bag SW-39c.5
The Green Box SW-39c.6
The Stuff We Throw Away SW-39c.7
What's New in Solid Waste Management? SW-39c.8

Instructions for borrowing or purchasing these films are given with each script and are summarized in the brochure *Films Tell the Story*, available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1972

IN THE BAG

19 minutes, 16-mm motion picture, sound, color, 1969. Order no. M-2091-X.*

IN THE BAG presents the paper sack system of refuse storage and collection as an efficient and economical new approach. The film describes advantages to the householder, the collector, and the landfill or incinerator operator. It depicts the application of the paper refuse sack in a variety of situations, showing residential, recreational, industrial, commercial, and institutional uses. Suitable for business managers, sanitarians, and municipal planners.

Dog knocks over garbage can; tilt from Empire State Building to garbage cans; New York City garbage men load refuse

Cars on New York City street; garbage cans lying on street; compactor dumps refuse at dump; paper blowing at dump

It's a throwaway world. Get it . . . use it . . . throw it away.

Ever notice that a city doesn't *consume* much of anything. Food and other materials are brought into the system by rail, truck, and ship. *Conversion* takes place . . . and, sooner or later, the residues must go out by sewer or wind . . . garbage scow or truck. Every year, America spends over \$3 billion collecting and disposing of solid wastes. However, the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council comments that:

"Present (solid waste) collection techniques are little better than horse-and-buggy systems with gasoline-driven engines."

Housewife empties waste basket into sack below porch

Refuse collector removes sack and takes it to street

Old lady drags a sack to the curb

Refuse collectors bring bags to the street

A new idea . . . the disposable garbage can! People like the paper refuse sack. It's handy, compact, light, attractive, and clean.

You can't bang or rattle a refuse sack. No flies . . . dust . . . or smell. The specially made sacks have "wet strength" . . . will resist moisture . . . will hold a heavy load.

Bag it and drag it . . . and forget garbage can scrubbing.

The people who collect refuse like the sack. Easy to carry . . . no sharp edges. The refuse sack doesn't have to be emptied,

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Purchase from: Stuart Finley, Inc.
3428 Mansfield Road, Falls Church, Va. 22041
Area Code 703/820-7700
Prints—\$200
Cleared for TV.

thus there's no exposure to broken glass, sloppy garbage, pungent odors, and suffocating dust. Virtually a white collar job!

Compactor comes and one man throws in sacks

But the guy who's really enthusiastic about the sack is the Director of Sanitation. Whether it's a big city, a suburban county, or a small town, refuse collection is a headache. It's expensive. The key factors are manual labor and expensive equipment.

Men throw sacks into open truck; open truck on its way to landfill; open truck dumps sacks

Because open refuse trucks do not confine odors, insects, and scattered paper, and do not have as much capacity, most collection agencies have turned to closed compaction vehicles. However, these trucks have certain shortcomings. They are noisy, heavy, and costly to purchase, maintain, and operate. Now, the paper refuse sack permits savings by relieving labor recruitment problems and permitting the nuisance-free use of standard trucks.

Compactor disgorges sacks at landfill

Some communities may find it more economical to use compactors to collect sacks because of their greater capacity . . . or may employ a limited fleet of compactors plus some standard trucks.

Woman empties her garbage into refuse sack in apartment utility room; woman puts sack out her apartment door and talks to neighbor

Meantime, the sanitary engineer in charge of the landfill operation is happy to see the sack arrive. The bag is biodegradable . . . and solves the problem of blowing paper and plastic.

Maintenance man picks up sack and leaves empty one; apartment women again

One reason people live in apartments is so they won't have to cut grass. Another reason is so they won't have to mess around with garbage: "Let the management wash the garbage cans" . . . or, better yet, supply rattleproof, bangproof, rustproof, spillproof, flyproof, smellproof, scatterproof, paper refuse sacks.

Maintenance man operating little truck to take sacks to storage house; placing sacks in storage area

The refuse sack can require as little as one quarter normal maintenance time because there are no cans to clean or return. It's a one-way system.

The apartment manager in a typical large installation reports that he has 130 refuse sack receptacle cabinets . . . uses about 250 bags a week . . . and assigns 14 hours manpower for collecting the sacks. Total cost: \$78 a week for labor and materials.

Zoom from Empire State Building to man putting refuse sacks outside of apartment house

Big city living is based on the principle of stacking people on top of each other. When these people want to get rid of something, they drop it down a chute and thus dispose of it effortlessly.

Building engineer puts on apron and glasses

Down below, maintenance personnel try to keep up with the contributions from above.

He shovels residue from incinerator into refuse sack; closeup of same

They put it in the fiery furnace, burn it, wait for it to cool, and shovel the residue into paper refuse sacks which, fortunately, are strong enough to hold such a heavy load. Several types of sacks are manufactured. Most are 3½ feet high and hold 30 gallons . . . more than the average garbage can.

Refuse collectors throw sacks into collection truck

The outside men find it easy to load the bags into a truck.

Same refuse collectors load refuse from ash cans with difficulty and dust

However, frequently the old fashioned ash can is used. It is awkward to handle . . . often is too heavy for one man . . . is dusty . . . and all the debris is out in the open, ready to cut, snag, and spill.

Woman stuffs garbage bag into disposal chute

Municipal air pollution controls are discouraging the construction of new small individually operated incinerators.

Garbage bag drops into compactor and machine operates; wide shot of same unit

So, as this lady disposes of her refuse, its bulk is reduced by a mechanical compactor located in the basement. This one rotates when the sack is filled.

Point-of-origin compaction creates economy in set-out, collection, transfer, haul to the landfill, and landfill disposal.

Horizontal compactor in operation

This horizontal compactor also compresses the material into a paper refuse sack. The snout protects the sack during the compaction process.

As new technology is developed to provide better solid waste management, these new methods often prove to be compatible. Here the compactor and the refuse sack work together as a team.

School children eating lunch in cafeteria; children drop food and paper trays into sack

Lunch is a fun period at school . . . but when it's over, you have to have a place to put all that uneaten spinach, today's disposable knives, forks and spoons, dishes, and trays. It's a hard-to-handle conglomeration . . . bulky, heavy, sharp, wet, putrescible. The refuse sack to the rescue! Wet strength is the secret. A specially treated, rugged kraft paper resists the

Refuse sack at swimming pool; girl throws in refuse	moisture. A special sewed or glued bottom design holds the heavy load.
	Everywhere . . . food!
	Food leftovers . . . garbage.
	The refuse sack is a sanitary garbage gobbler.
Woman prepares food in a restaurant kitchen	The way to size up a restaurant is to visit its kitchen. A clean kitchen plus skillful food preparation equals a good place to eat. And the ever-present refuse sack is on the job.
Man cutting excess fat off steaks	Whether you're disposing of garbage or packaging fat for sale to a renderer, once you close the sack . . . odors are trapped inside . . . flies are kept out. A recent study in California revealed that disposable sacks were over 90 percent more effective against fly population growth than conventional cans.
Ski slope; skiers	The easy-to-carry sack on a ski slope in Vermont . . .
Children in zoo; lady picks up litter, looks around, sees sack, puts it in	. . . or in your favorite zoo: "Now, what can I do with this? Oh, yes . . . there's one of those paper thing-a-ma-jigs."
Washington, D.C. street cleaner at work using sack system	A few years ago, before refuse sacks came on the scene, this fellow used to wheel around a heavy metal can. When it was filled, he'd empty the assorted litter and debris in a pile at a street corner. Sometimes a collection truck would stop by and pick it up; other times, the wind and passing traffic would do the job.
Hospital uses sack	In addition to garbage and trash, hospitals must collect and dispose of surgery, autopsy, and treatment room wastes so as to prevent infections and airborne contamination.
Refuse sack in shop	They call these miscellaneous applications of the refuse sack "I-C-I" . . . institutional, commercial, industrial. Wherever there's a special solid waste, the refuse sack and its various individually designed receptacle units can solve the problem.
Motel using the sack	Most institutional, commercial, and industrial applications can produce demonstrable savings, and many, such as this motel, are pleased with the way the sack system quietly and cleanly fits into normal maintenance procedures.
Roadside rest area using sack system	In public roadside rest areas, bus stops, shopping centers, and

parks, the local government has a responsibility to supply litter receptacles and frequent collection service.

Office cleanup

Often the refuse sack has wheels. But a refuse can could have wheels. What's the advantage? There are several: every trip is a one-way trip . . . you never have to wash or clean out a refuse sack . . . you don't need a refuse can storeroom for empties. In the competitive building maintenance business, labor is the only significant factor. When the sack saves cleanup time, maintenance costs go way down.

Friendship Airport

If you happen to run an airport or a hotel, factory, or whatever . . . and you want to find out how much you can save by installing the refuse sack system, call a member of the National Refuse Sack Council and ask for an analysis and documented case histories.

Compactor crew collects refuse in Amherst, Virginia

The "perfect" solid waste solution is tailored to the individual situation: big city or small town, urban living or rural setting, service charge or services performed. Whatever type of service, the public benefits when the refuse sack eliminates trash can return, speeds service, silences the clatter, and saves money.

Sacks in the rain; Sanitation Department supervisor wet-tests a sack

The Sanitation Department contemplating the use of the refuse sack must be prepared to answer certain questions. Since the average grocery bag would fall apart if filled with damp or wet garbage or refuse, citizens suspect that the refuse sack will too. The solution is the use of a tough, kraft paper, strong enough to stand upright, rigid and stretchproof and yet with porosity to allow moisture evaporation. All refuse sacks have "wet strength" but there are several brands of sacks and different grades. And there are several alternative ways of using the sack: the community could bear the entire cost . . . the community could purchase the bags and property owners could buy the hardware of their choice . . . or the community could purchase the hardware and the homeowner could pay for the bags. The plan could be citywide or voluntary. These are all local decisions. In communities which have switched to the refuse sack, public reaction is overwhelming. Usually, 98 percent want the sack system continued and 86 percent are willing to pay the slight additional charge for the sacks in order to continue this superior sanitation service. But public reaction is only part of the story. The new system can modernize a Sanitation Department. Injury and illness of collection employees go way down when the sack is used. One

town found its insurance premiums for collectors dropped from \$16,000 a year to \$7,200 . . . more than half.

Dog knocks over garbage can; man picks up refuse and throws it in truck; youngsters trim hedge and use refuse sack for clippings; truck picks up sacks easily

Today's shortage and high cost of labor is forcing municipalities to convert to curbside collection service. The use of the refuse sack solves the problem of blowing cans and lids and unsightly streets by leaving a litter free attractive street . . . thus solving a sticky political problem by providing a peaceful transition from backdoor service to curbside service. Several years ago, the American Public Works Association issued a special report on Solid Wastes Research Needs. One of the proposed projects was to evaluate refuse containers to determine types most suitable for storing various kinds of refuse under specific conditions. The A.P.W.A. report commented:

“The cylindrical metal cans now used to store refuse by most homeowners and many businesses and institutions have a number of disadvantages. Metal cans become unsightly, bend easily, rust, fall apart, are relatively heavy, noisy, and difficult to keep clean, often lose their covers, and blow away on windy days.

Final scene of sack pickup

The members of the National Refuse Sack Council have helped solve this technical problem by manufacturing and offering for sale a variety of types of sacks and holders. The local application is a challenge which can only be met by officials of America's cities and counties.

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