



A HISTORY OF PLASTIC BAG & FILM RECYCLING IN SIOUX FALLS

Film and bags are found to be **very challenging**. Employees must hand-pick them out of the material and any that are missed get tangled in equipment, **causing downtime**.

Education helps, but most film is **still coming in loose**. The quantity has increased faster than expected and quickly becomes **very costly** for the recycling company.

China launches the **National Sword Policy**, banning recycling imports from all over the world to target trash smugglers.

With Chinese plastic imports down by 99%, **domestic recycling markets are now flooded**. Material value drops to a **10-year record low** and small recycling businesses all over the country struggle to stay afloat.

Millennium holds a public roundtable to **notify their waste haulers and local communities** that plastic bags and film will need to be removed.

#BYOBSF launches with the **Butterfly House & Aquarium** in Sioux Falls to spread the word on reducing plastic bag waste and promote retailers who are making a difference.

To **offset costs** and encourage waste haulers to communicate with their customers, Millennium implements contamination fees on loads that still contain **excessive film and bags**.

2007

Millennium finds partners to recycle plastic film (bags and wrap). Plastic film is included in the mixed recycling program — **one of VERY FEW in the entire country accepting bags in the bin!**

2008

2012

“**Bag your Bags**” education campaign is launched for people to place all film together in one, tied bag. This lets the recycling team quickly identify the material, pull it out, and prevent it from getting tangled in equipment.

2013

2014

Even as a “high cost” item, Millennium decides to continue accepting film and bags to support its ultimate goal of **landfill diversion**, as the material can still be recycled.

2017

NOV 2018

Millennium’s film processors **no longer want material from mixed programs**, only from “clean” sources like retail store drop-off locations.

JAN 2019

MAY 2019

With literally **tons of plastic film piling up**, nowhere to send it for recycling, and no new options in sight, Millennium makes the difficult business decision to stop accepting it. This makes film the **first item ever to be removed** from the mixed recycling program.

MAY 2019

JUNE 2019

The removal of plastic bags and film is **announced publicly** and reported on by all local news channels. Millennium offers free educational resources for waste haulers and **waives fees for film contamination** during transition period.

AUGUST 2019

SEPT 2019

Costs have increased for the recycling company as the new burden of storage and landfill fees for film adds to the continued equipment and labor costs, but **there is hope** as the amount begins to decline.

OCT 2019

JAN 2020

Plastic film has virtually **disappeared from OVER HALF of waste hauler loads**, resulting in **no added fees** for these haulers. Millennium continues to work with the remaining haulers to educate their customers on reducing plastic bag use, keeping film out of the bin, and using appropriate drop-off locations.



HELP US DIVERT PLASTIC BAGS AND FILM FROM THE LANDFILL BY BRINGING YOUR OWN BAG (#BYOBSF) AND RECYCLING PLASTIC FILM AND BAGS AT RETAIL DROP OFF LOCATIONS!

Learn more at www.MillenniumRecycling.com/byob



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