

PNEUMATIC WASTE COLLECTION

A new way to collect trash

Until the 1970s, incinerators at the bottom of trash chutes did most of the work of moving trash off NYCHA developments. After NYCHA stopped burning its trash, caretakers were tasked with moving garbage by hand. To save their backs and more efficiently dispose

of waste, NYCHA is replacing individual compactors with a network of underground pipes, which will keep trash away from people's homes and deter pests. The first pneumatic system will be installed at Polo Grounds Towers in Upper Manhattan.



New waste rooms near the lobby make disposing trash and recycling convenient for everyone.

GOALS

- Safer, cleaner campuses and a better quality of life for residents
- Less physically demanding labor for caretakers
- Fewer vehicles in pedestrian areas
- More resilient waste removal, regardless of storms, snow, staffing levels or holidays

IMPACT AT POLO GROUNDS:

- 4,000 residents no longer have to see and smell garbage near their homes
- 12,000 hours/year of caretaker labor can be reallocated (for other important tasks at Polo Grounds)
- Better working conditions and job quality for caretakers encourages job retention
- NYCHA is raising the standard for waste management infrastructure in NYC

NEXT STEPS

As the Polo Grounds project moves forward, NYCHA will study the costs and benefits of retrofitting other campuses.



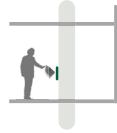
Residents and staff tour the pneumatic system on Roosevelt Island

Scan or click [here](#) for more information on this project



HOW DOES IT WORK?

1



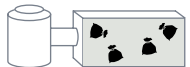
Residents throw trash in their building's trash chute. Once the storage at the bottom of the chute is full, the system is turned on and the discharge valve opens.

2



Fans or air pumps at the central facility turn on generating a powerful vacuum. Trash is carried at up to 60mph to the collection facility.

3



At the collection facility, trash is compacted directly into sealed containers and the exhaust air is filtered and released.

4



The Department of Sanitation trucks full containers off site.