


# envirowise } Waste Hierarchy

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**Waste & Sustainable Procurement:  
The Road to Resource Efficient Low Carbon Buildings  
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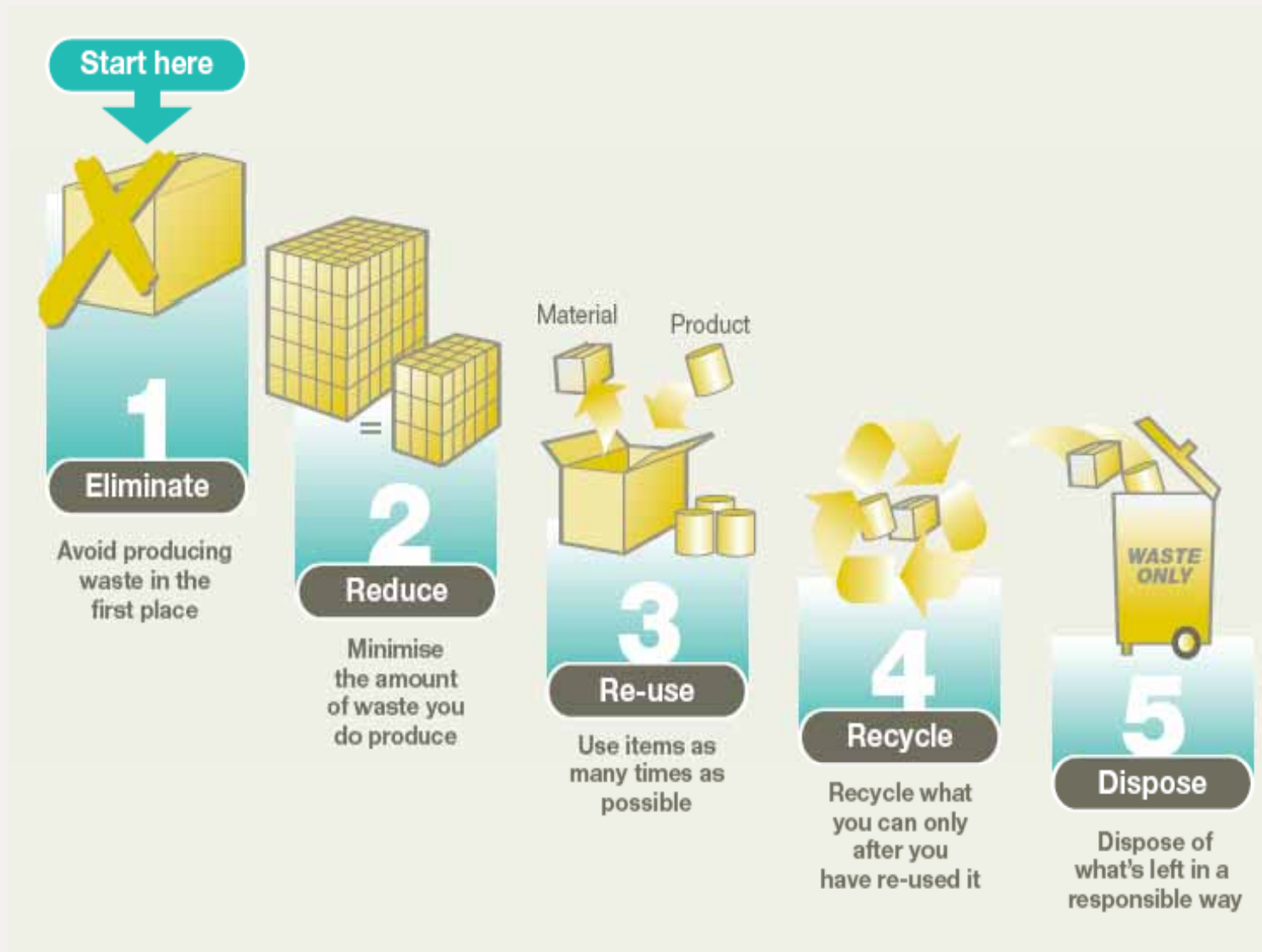
# Overview

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- Waste Hierarchy
  - How to Achieve Waste Minimisation: The Options
  - Introduction to Support Available in the North West

# The Waste Hierarchy

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- Concept incorporated into UK Waste Management Policy since the early 1990s
  - Framework for Sustainable Waste Management
  - Identifies different options for waste management based on environment impact
  - Use to help your company become more profitable & efficient

# The Waste Hierarchy: Your Options...



# Step 1: Elimination

## Elimination (Prevention)

- Top of the hierarchy: most cost effective means of reducing resource use
- Lowest environmental impact
- Assess if all packaging & product components are really necessary
- Speak with suppliers & customers (Procurement processes)
- Waste Mapping Exercises (Outline: where waste occurs, how waste occurs, how much waste is really costing your business)

### *Support*

CCI ([www.ccinw.com](http://www.ccinw.com))

Envirowise ([www.envirowise.gov.uk](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk))

Enworks ([www.enworks.com](http://www.enworks.com))

...if unable to eliminate the waste then...



# Step 2: Reduce

## Reduce

- Opportunity to use less material in the first instance – size, thickness, weight
- Look at product design
- Purchase materials in bulk – work with customers & suppliers
- Reduce off-cuts and rejects
- Amount of packaging used
- Stop junk mail (with Mailing Preference Service)
- Staff Behavioural Change

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WRAP ([www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk))

...if unable to reduce the waste then...

# Step 3: Reuse

## Re-use

- Options to reuse packaging
- Are there neighbouring businesses to help reuse materials?
- Printer toner cartridges – select a supplier has a returns policy. These can then be refilled & reused
- Drums – many raw materials are delivered in drums that can be washed and returned to the supplier – or re-used on site

## *Support*

Envirolink NW ([www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](http://www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk))

NISP ([www.nisp.org.uk](http://www.nisp.org.uk))

...if unable to reuse the waste then...

# Step 4: Recycle

## Recycle

- Increasing requirement through legislation to reduce impact
- Speak to local recycling centres / waste management contractors

## **Energy Recovery**

- Beneficial part of integrated resource management
- New techniques developing all the time – Anaerobic Digestion, Incineration, Gasification, In-vessel Composting, Mechanical Heat Treatment (MHT) & Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT)

## ***Support***

Envirolink NW ([www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](http://www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk))

Environment Agency ([www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk))

NISP ([www.nisp.org.uk](http://www.nisp.org.uk))

WRAP ([www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk))

...if unable to recycle the waste then...

# Step 5: Disposal

## Disposal

- Last option of the waste hierarchy
- Represents the highest cost option & greatest environmental impact
- EU Landfill Directive – binding obligations

## Further Environmental Support available in the North West

**Environment Connect** (0800 032 0222) & [www.environmentconnect.co.uk](http://www.environmentconnect.co.uk)

- Free business support sign-posting service operating in the Northwest
- Provides confidential advice and practical assistance
- Advice on Energy, RE, Waste, EM, and cleaner technologies
- Accessed through Business Link

# Benefits

- Waste minimisation saves money
- Economic Bottom line & Environment benefits
- Short payback periods
- Typical savings are £1000/employee
- CSR, Awards, Prestige
- Low cost/no cost measures yield big results
- Business survival





## Summary

- \* Understanding of the waste hierarchy
- \* Outline of the Key Steps & Options
- \* Moving up the waste hierarchy will save money, energy, raw materials and your impact on the environment
- \* Introduction to the available support in the North West