

# Zero Waste Hierarchy



😊 BEST USE

**Refuse/Rethink/Redesign**

- Refuse what we don't need and change the way we produce and consume by redesigning business models, goods and packaging in order to reduce resource-use and waste

**Reduce and reuse**

- Minimise the quantity, toxicity and ecological footprint of consumption. Reuse products or components for their original purpose before they become waste

**Preparation for reuse**

- Check, clean or repair products or components of products that have become waste so that they can be re-used without any other pre-processing

**Recycling/composting/anaerobic digestion**

- High quality material recovery from separately collected waste streams

**Material and chemical recovery**

- Technologies to recover materials from mixed waste and discards from sorting processes into new building blocks for high quality products

**Residuals management**

- What cannot be recovered from mixed waste is biologically stabilised prior to landfilling

**Unacceptable**

- Options that don't allow for material recovery, have high environmental impact and create lock in effects that threaten the transition to Zero Waste: waste to energy incineration, co-incineration, plastic to fuel, landfilling of non-stabilised waste, gasification, pyrolysis, illegal dumping, open burning and littering

☹️ WORST USE