

HIGHEST AND BEST USE HIERARCHY

Highest Use



Redesign Manufacturing & Supply Chain

- Mandate Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Produce durable, reusable, recyclable, and recycled-content products
- Use environmentally sustainable feedstocks & materials
- Design for repair, reconditioning, disassembly, deconstruction and recycling
- Make brand owners/first importers responsible to take back products & packaging

Reduce/Refuse/Return

Reduce Toxicity

- Reduce toxic materials in products
- Replace toxic materials in products with less toxic or non-toxic alternatives

Reduce Consumption

- Purchase and use less
- Apply Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) standards to purchasing

Reduce Packaging

- Purchase products with less packaging
- Incentive durable, reusable packaging

Reuse/Preserve Form & Function

- Repair and recondition products
- Deconstruct and salvage buildings and building products
- Support thrift stores and charity collection

Recycle/Compost/Digestion

- Recover & return materials to economic mainstream for remanufacture to like-value products
- Recover & return materials to economic mainstream for composting to value-added soil amendment products
- Ambient temperature (<200 degrees) processing of organic materials for recovery of fuels and energy, with composting of residue

Down Cycle

- Recover & return materials to economic mainstream for remanufacture to non- or marginally-recyclable products, such as office paper to tissue paper, or soda bottles to toys or clothing

Waste-Based Energy¹

- Biological energy recovery technologies, including anaerobic digestion
- Thermal energy recovery technologies including gasification, plasma arc, pyrolysis

Bury/Incinerate

- Bioreactor landfilling, when design incorporates sufficient safety & environmental protections
- “Beneficial” landfill use, such as alternative daily cover (ADC) or landfill construction
- Traditional landfilling

Lowest Use