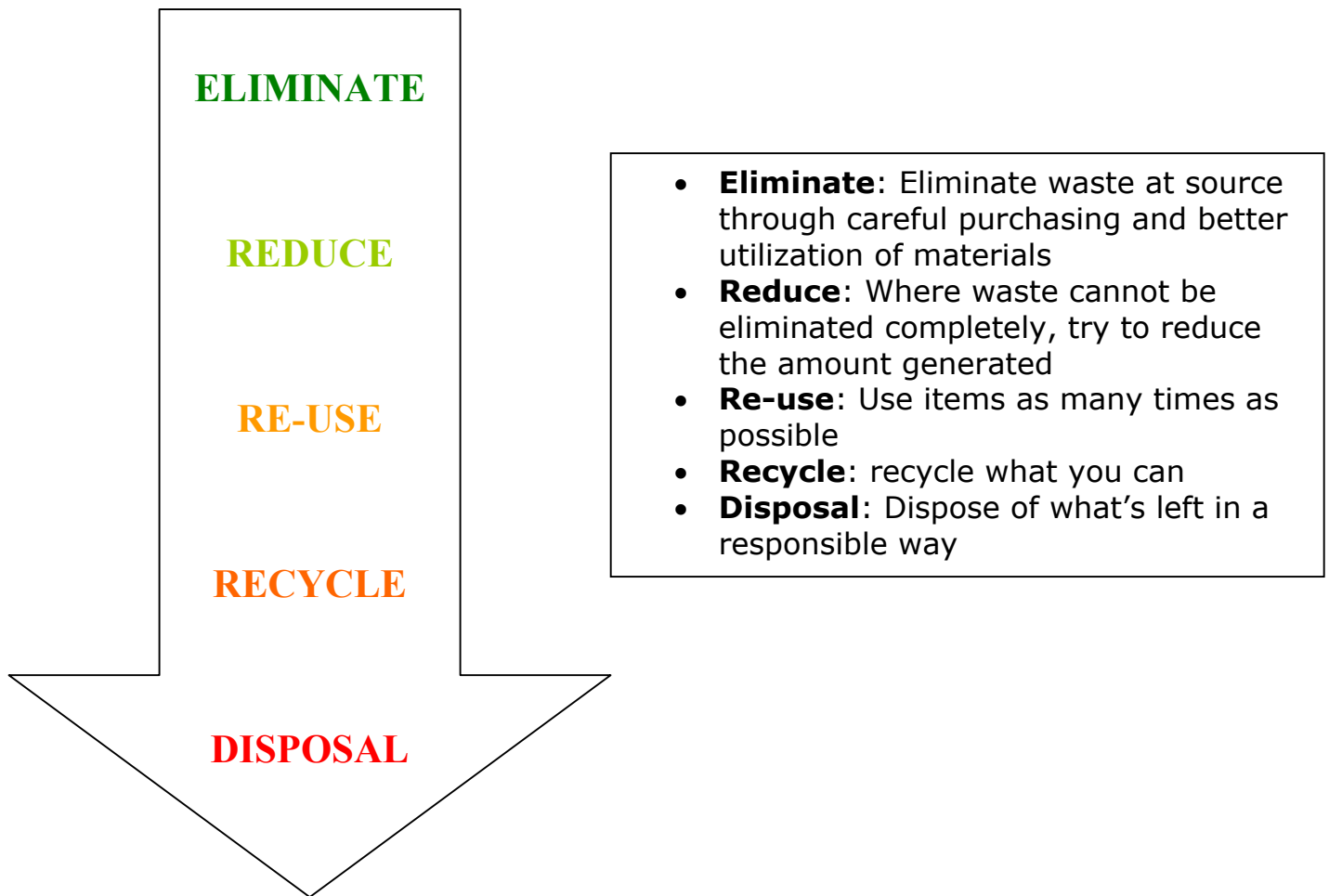


THE THREE R'S: REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE

Waste hierarchy

The waste hierarchy illustrates how priority should be given to the way we deal with waste. The 'Eliminate - Reduce - Re-use - Recycle - Dispose' rule should be used for all waste types - and remember that the higher up the waste hierarchy the more money will be saved.



Example of reducing waste – Avoid printing e-mails

Example of re-use – Printing on both sides of paper

Example of recycling waste – Sending paper through the recycling process to create new paper

Recycling

Although recycling has clear benefits over landfilling of waste and using virgin materials it creates its own environmental impacts through the transportation of materials and energy consumed during the recycling process. Recycling should be considered only after elimination, reduction and re-use options have been addressed. Re-using materials will cut both the purchase and disposal costs whereas recycling will reduce only disposal costs.



By recycling as much as possible you may be able to reduce your waste disposal costs significantly, particularly as the cost of disposal is increasing. Recycling often costs less than disposal to landfill particularly if you segregate your waste and have room to store larger quantities of materials.

Buying recycled

It is important not only to collect materials for recycling, but also to close the recycling loop by purchasing materials with a recycled content. Available products made from recycled materials include: paper and stationery products, toilet paper, refuse sacks and recycled plastic picnic benches.



The use of these materials will help to stimulate the market for recycled products and support the recycling process. What you buy not only affects your recycling rate but also has an effect on the recycling market.

Before you buy any product ask yourself the following questions:

- Is it made from recycled materials?
- Is it made from marked and easily recycled materials, such as paper, glass or wood?
- Are its component materials easy to separate for recycling?
- Is its packaging easily recyclable?

So remember to reduce, reuse and recycle your waste. It is much better to reduce waste in the first place as then there is less to deal with. Reusing things is the second best option as it saves you buying new things. After you have reduced and reused as much as you can, recycle.

Further information/contacts

- www.wastenot.co.za – general waste information
- Local landfill site: Wellington landfill, Interpace Street, Wellington (near Industrial Park). Tel: 021 873 2530
- Materials Recycling Facility (MRF): Distillery Street, Hugenot, Paarl. Tel: 021 807 4715/ 021 807 4751
- Operating hours for landfill site and MRF
 - Monday – Thursday, Saturdays & Public Holidays: 8am - 4pm; Friday: 8am – 3.30pm; Sundays & Religious Holidays: Closed
- Residents in Drakenstein (not businesses) can dispose up to five bakkie loads of refuse free of charge at the MRF of landfill site
- Recycling bank locations
 - Bottle banks – Bergriver Boulevard (near Brug str.), Main Road (near Zomerlust Spar), Paarl Rugby Clubhouse, Boy Louw Sportsgrounds
 - Cans – can be brought to MRF
 - Steel – L.O.Rall, Paarl Scrap Metal - Oosterland Street
 - Paper – Mr Paper – Vosmaar Street