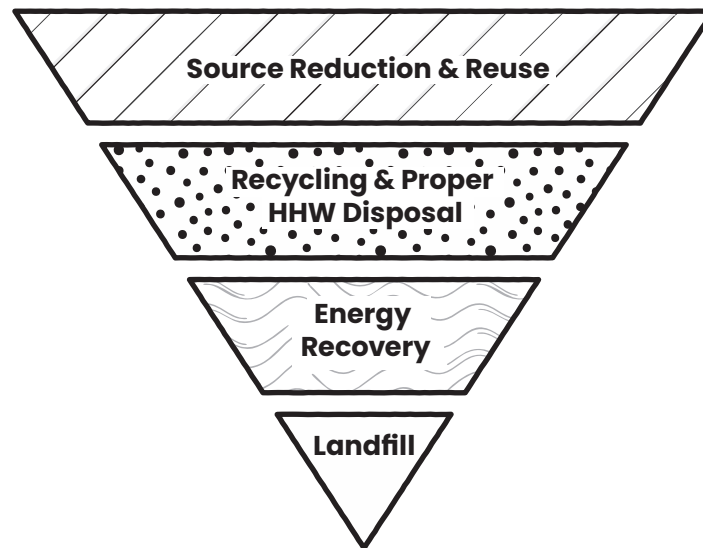


Making Smart Choices: The Waste Hierarchy Challenge

Every item we throw away has several possible paths. The Waste Hierarchy helps choose the option that has the greatest environmental benefit.



Read each action below and decide which level of the Waste Hierarchy it belongs to.

1. Using a reusable shopping bag _____
2. Composting food scraps _____
3. Repairing a torn jacket _____
4. Recycling a glass bottle _____
5. Sending non-recyclable trash to a waste-to-energy facility _____
6. Donating old books _____
7. Throwing broken dishes away _____
8. Recycling a soup can _____
9. Repurposing a jar _____
10. Buying a refillable water bottle _____
11. Buying items that have less packaging _____
12. Throwing out waste that cannot be recycled or recovered _____
13. Composting leaves and grass clippings _____
14. Generating electricity from trash _____
14. Repairing a bicycle _____
16. Recovering metal from a waste-to-energy facility _____

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

17. Some actions could fit more than one category over the life of an item. For example, a glass jar might first be reused, then eventually recycled. Why is it better to choose the highest practical option in the hierarchy before moving to the next one?

18. List 10 ways the glass jar could be reused or repurposed.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____
- g. _____
- h. _____
- i. _____
- j. _____

BONUS: Which of these ideas keeps the glass jar in use the longest? When would recycling become the better choice?