

Making Smart Choices: The Waste Hierarchy Challenge Answer Key

1. Source Reduction & Reuse
2. Recycling & Composting
3. Source Reduction & Reuse
4. Recycling & Composting
5. Energy Recovery & Volume Reduction
6. Source Reduction & Reuse
7. Landfill
8. Recycling & Composting
9. Source Reduction & Reuse
10. Source Reduction & Reuse
11. Source Reduction & Reuse
12. Energy Recovery & Volume Reduction
13. Recycling & Composting
14. Energy Recovery & Volume Reduction
15. Source Reduction & Reuse
16. Recycling & Composting (even though it comes after the Energy Recovery step)

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

17. Answers may vary. Sample response: It is better to choose the highest practical option in the Waste Hierarchy because it usually saves more resources and creates less waste. For example, reusing a glass jar means no energy or raw materials are needed to make a new jar. Once the jar can no longer be reused, recycling the glass allows it to be made into a new product. If it can't be recycled, energy recovery may be the next best option, and disposal should only be used when no other practical option is available. By following the hierarchy, we conserve natural resources, reduce pollution, and send less waste to landfills
18. BONUS Answers may vary.