

Summary of the Waste Hierarchy:



The **Waste Hierarchy** is essentially a '**best practice**' guide to assist businesses dealing with their waste. Over the years, our Government has championed the 'green agenda' but is heavily reliant on both the public and private sector ensuring that as much as possible is being done to meet the recycling targets set by the European Union.

The Waste Hierarchy is not linked to compliance however, it will impact on compliance if adhered to and administered correctly.

Simply put, businesses need to make sure that each waste stream they handle and the waste they are left with on site is receiving the appropriate attention when considering how to deal with it.

It is now considered '**poor business practice**' to have a 'general waste bin'. Comply Direct's sister company Recycling In Action has experience in dealing with Councils and waste collection companies to ensure our members are receiving the appropriate service. There are some key areas to consider:

1. What waste streams are being produced on site?
2. Where do they currently go?
3. Who is dealing with this and are we paying for or being paid for material?

Eliminate/Prevention:

1. Does the business really need this material in the process it is currently being used in?
2. Can we prevent this material from even getting into the waste stream to begin with?
3. If we can prevent the waste stream then let's do so.

Reduce/Minimisation:

1. If the material is an essential part of the makeup of the product or service then can the amount we use be reduced or minimised?
2. If so, put into action steps to reduce this.



Reuse:

1. If you have prevented as much of the material and the material is kept to a minimum in the product process then the next phase is to review whether the material can be reused. For example you might want to encourage reuse of all paper where possible, also any bags, boxes, or wood.

Recycle:

1. Now is the point where you start to look at recycling the material. If you would like any advice on what types of materials can be recycled, please send an email to matthew@recyclinginaction.com for more information.
2. Almost every material can be recycled, but it is about finding the most secure, efficient and environmentally acceptable way to recycle material which is not going to impact on your business.
3. Energy Recovery: This is a way in which waste collection companies can use the calorific values of recyclable material to gain benefit from incineration or sending waste to be converted into energy by burning. This method is becoming more acceptable and is now a safe and viable option.
4. Your business may be in a position to look at converting its waste into energy and this can be built into a carbon reduction programme also offered by Recycling in Action's sister company Comply Direct.

Disposal:

1. Unfortunately this is the last and least favoured way to deal with waste. Quite simply, you place everything into a single bin or container and it is collected as 'General Waste' and quickly transported to landfill. This solution is not acceptable and should not be entertained.
2. Landfill and general waste collections are a thing of the past. We must encourage and explore recycling and recovering as much material as possible.
3. Look at removing desk bins, installing co-mingled recycling systems, separate bins for different waste streams.

This is a very simple approach to how to deal with the waste hierarchy. Your business might not be able to deal with all of the areas at once, but it might be worth looking into areas where cost savings can be generated.

If you would like to have a discussion surrounding waste and recycling services, please contact Recycling in Action or your contact at Comply Direct.

We are always happy to help.

Keep Recycling

Recycling In Action



Follow recycling in action on twitter @recyclingaction or comply direct on @complydirect