

# Public Sector Guidance on the Procurement of Plastics in Wales

**Huw Lloyd**

Business Account & Project Delivery

WRAP Cymru

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Cymru



# OUR VISION

WRAP's vision is a world in which resources are used sustainably.

# OUR MISSION

Our mission is to accelerate the move to a sustainable resource-efficient economy through:

- Re-inventing how we design, produce and sell products
- Rethinking how we use and consume products
- Re-defining what is possible through re-use and recycling.

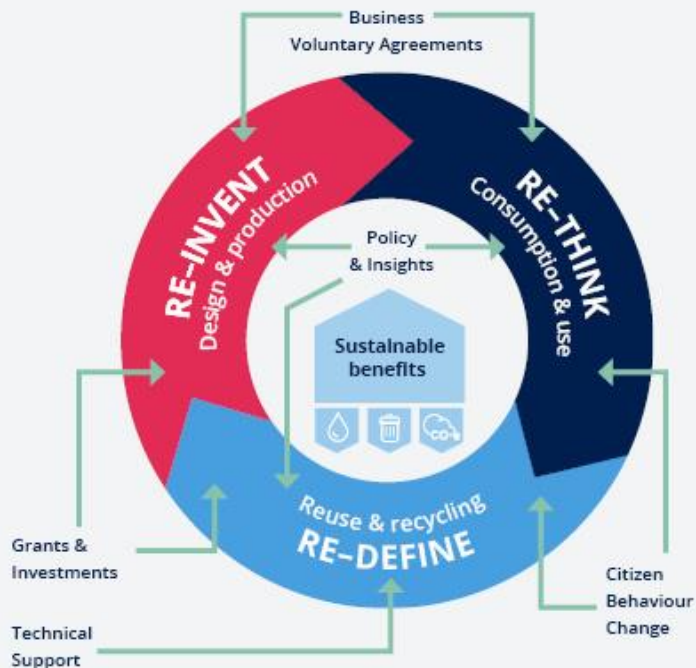


# OUR MODEL



WRAP works across the system, and through the value chain. We bring people together and make changes at all points to bring about the systemic change that is needed.

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# Beyond Recycling

A strategy to make the circular  
economy in Wales a reality

# POLICY & LEGISLATION

## Welsh Policy Context

- Beyond Recycling 2021
- Carbon neutral public sector by 2030
- Wales Procurement Policy Statement
- Social Partnerships and Sustainable Procurement Bill
- Well-being of Future Generations

# BACKGROUND

- 400,000 tonnes of plastic waste was generated in Wales in 2020.
- Much of this is not being recovered or recycled.
- Public concern is growing.
- Public sector procurement ability to influence the market
- Leadership required from the public sector.
- See [www.myrecyclingwales.org.uk](http://www.myrecyclingwales.org.uk)



# OBJECTIVES

- Guidance is aimed at the Welsh public sector.
- Provides basic information to tackle the environmental impact of plastic.
- Focus is on single-use and packaging plastics but can be applied wider.

# INITIATIVES

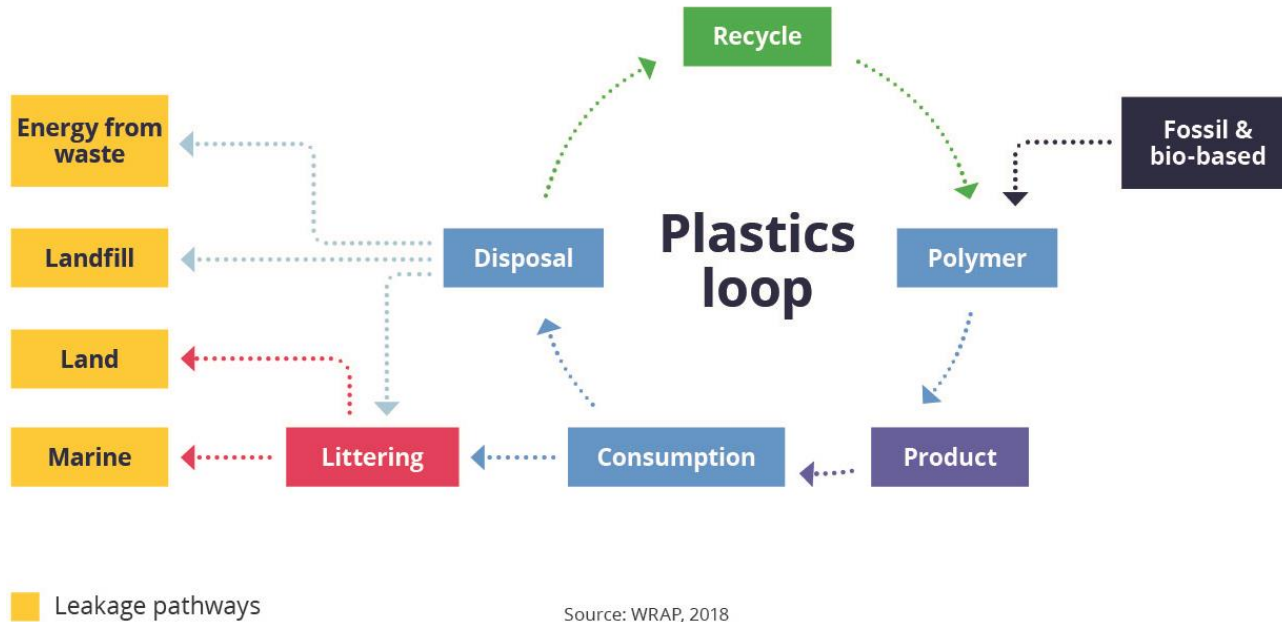
*Towards a Route Map for Plastic Recycling* recommends that by 2025 public sector bodies in Wales should:

- mandate that all plastic products and packaging procured are re-usable or recyclable and incorporates recycled content;
- achieve a collection and recycling rate of >90%; and
- set and achieve recycled content targets for selected products.



# PROBLEM PLASTICS

Figure 1: Simplified plastics loop and leakage pathways

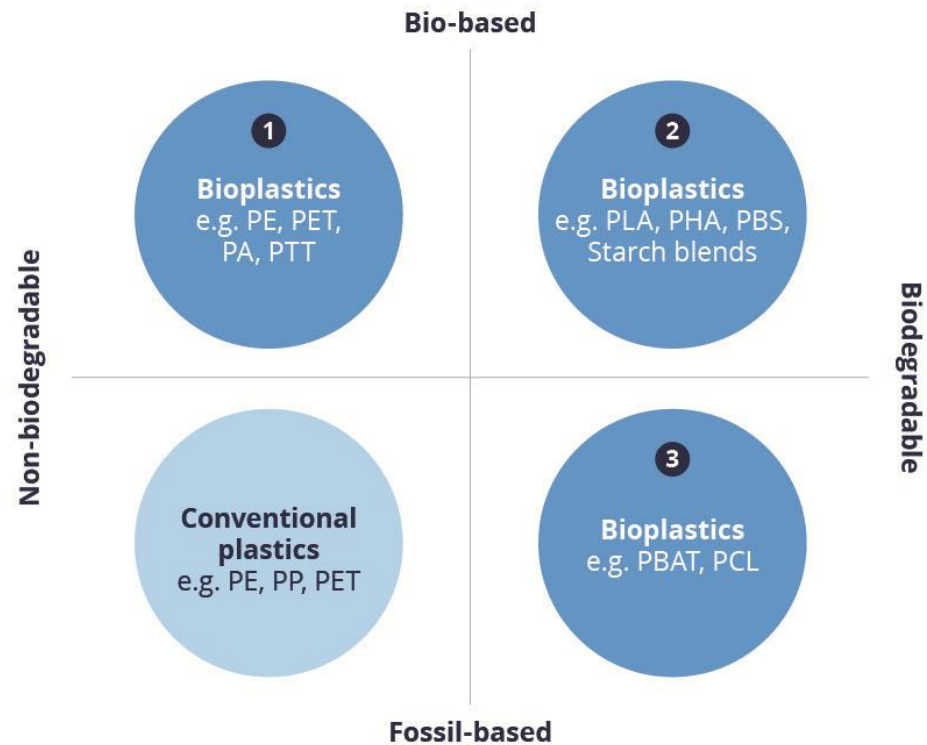




## **The UK Plastics Pact has defined specific problematic plastics as:**

- disposable plastic cutlery;
- all polystyrene packaging;
- cotton buds with plastic stems;
- plastic stirrers;
- plastic straws;
- oxo-degradable plastic that breaks down to create microplastics;
- PVC packaging;
- disposable plastic plates and bowls.

**Figure 2: Bioplastics terminology**



**Key**

- 1** Bio-based or partially bio-based non-biodegradable plastics.
- 2** Plastics that are both bio-based and biodegradable.
- 3** Plastics that are fossil-based and biodegradable.

Source: WRAP, 2018



- 2,361k tonnes of plastic packaging placed on UK market in 2017.
- Vast majority virgin plastic.
- 10% recycled plastic is used in manufacturing in Wales.
- Ambition to increase use of recycled content in packaging produced in Wales to 30% by 2025.
- Public sector should identify opportunities to specify minimum percentage of recycled content across targeted spend categories.



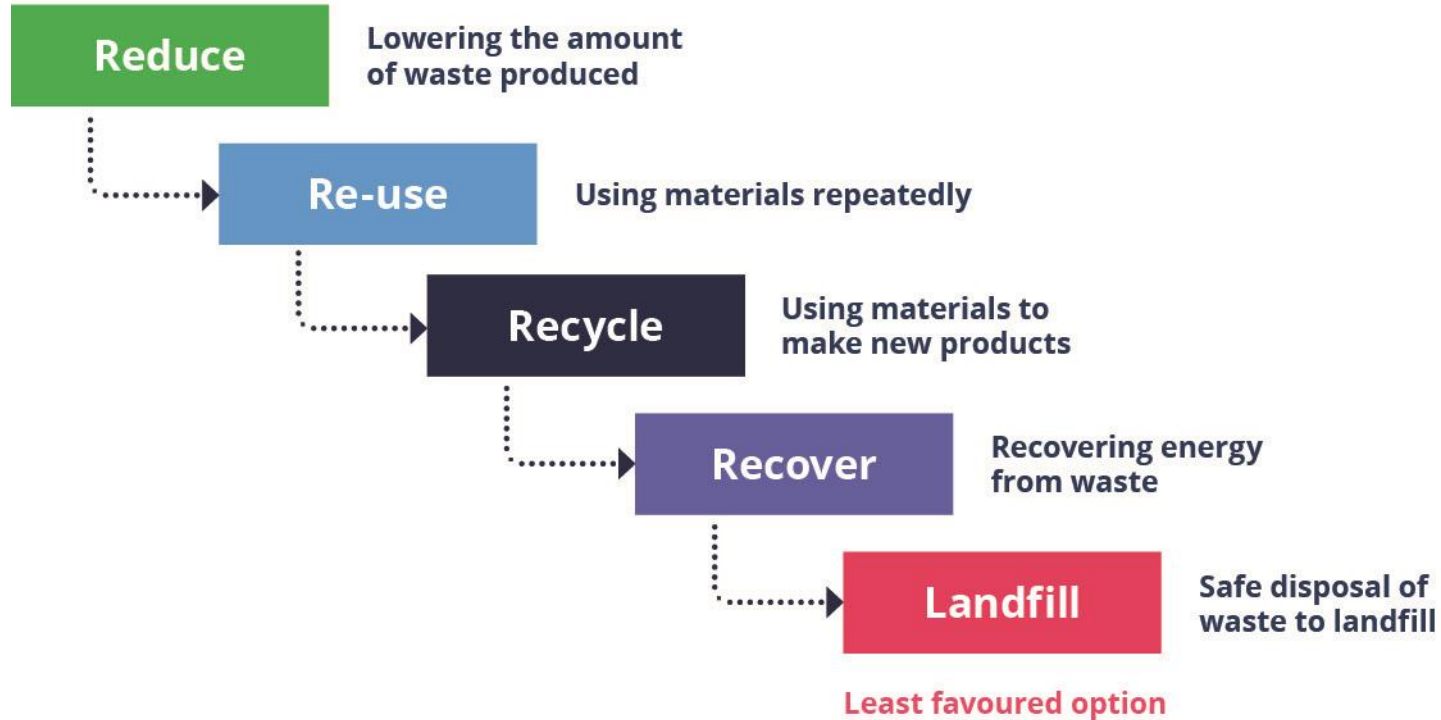
# Princes

*European Food and Drink Group*

- One of the first major food and drink manufacturers in the UK to declare the bottles in its soft drinks and oils ranges will be made with over 50% recycled plastic.
- All branded / own label products will eventually be made using rPET.
- Responsible for 7% of plastic bottles used in UK.
- All of its PET bottles are 100% recyclable.

**Figure 3: The Waste Hierarchy**

**Most favoured option**



Source: EU Waste Framework Directive, 2008

# DECISION MAKING PROCESS

- 1-Audit what we buy
- 2-Understand what we use
- 3-Use waste hierarchy to reduce, re-use, recycle and generate a life cycle approach
- 4-Use buying power
- 5-Communicate and inform
- 6-Constantly monitor and evaluate



**Avoid**

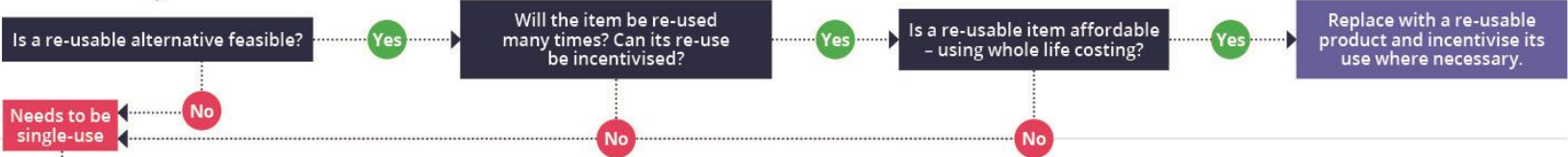


**Key**

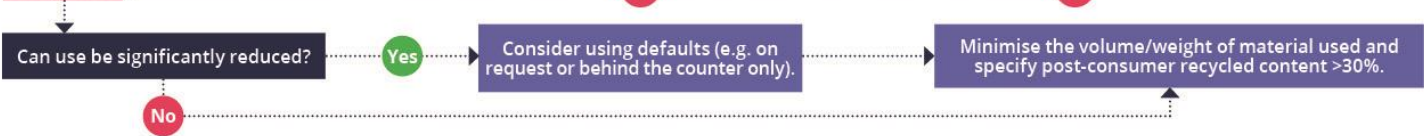
● Decision

● Action

**Re-use**



**Reduce**



**Recycle**



**Replace**



**Manage**

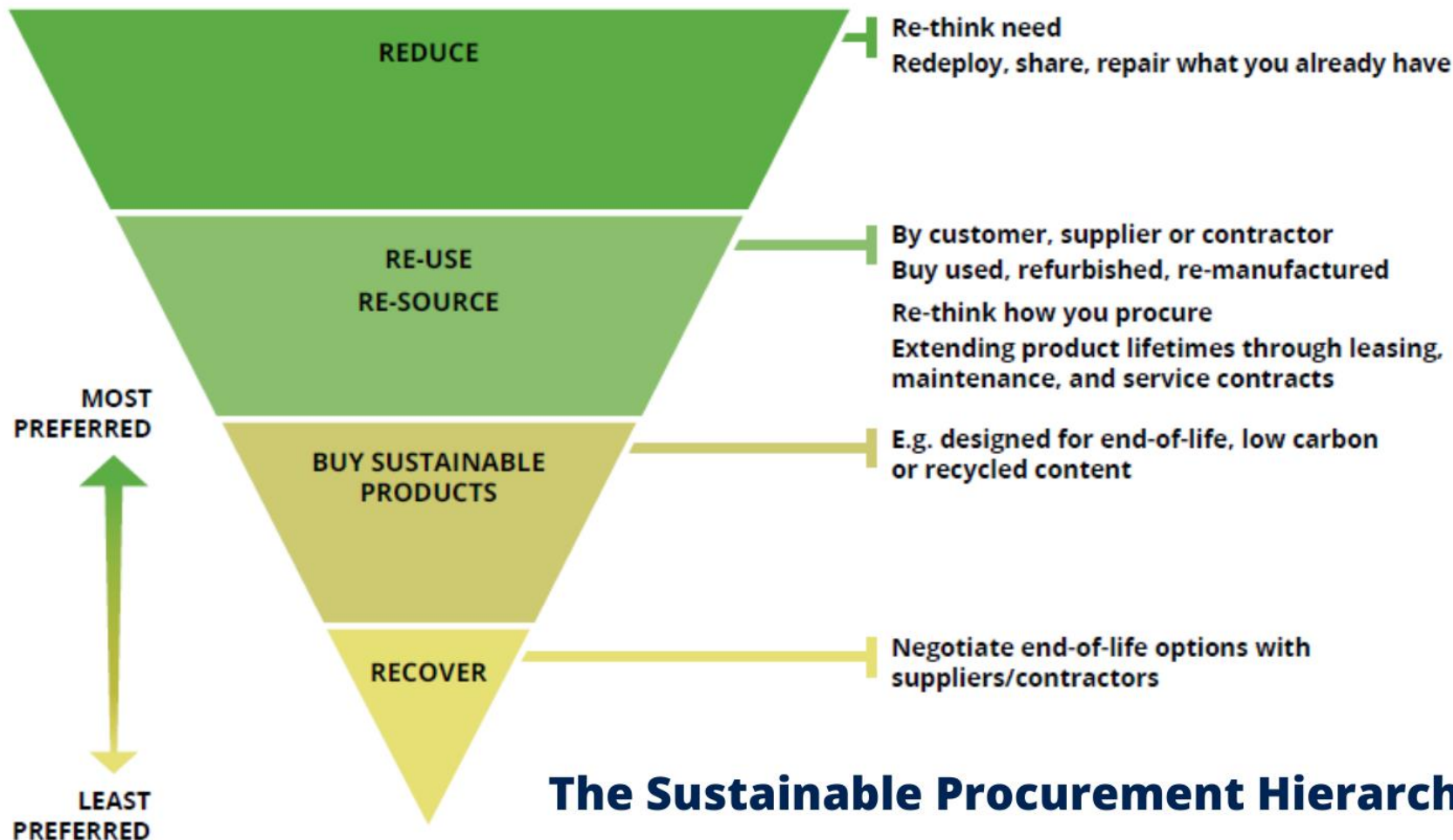


**Table 1: Examples of alternative materials**

<b>Material</b>	<b>Products</b>	<b>Disposal route</b>
Wood	Knives, forks, spoons, stirrers	Wood recycling stream
Baggase (reclaimed sugarcane)	Takeaway boxes, plates, hot drinks containers	Industrial composting
PLA (polylactic acid) & CPLA (crystallised polylactic acid) – typically made from fermented plant starch such as corn, cassava or sugarcane	Windows on sandwich bags & boxes	Industrial composting
Paper and card (kraft), which may be lined with plastic or PLA	Food trays, microwave meals, pizza boxes, sandwich boxes	Card/paper recycling stream unless: – product is contaminated with food; – it includes a plastic or PLA liner; or – it has a wax or greaseproof finish  Industrial composting (unless plastic lined)
Naturflex (film made from wood pulp)	Confectionery bags, cereal & pasta bags	Industrial composting
Palm leaf	Plates, trays	Industrial composting

# CASE STUDIES & GUIDANCE:

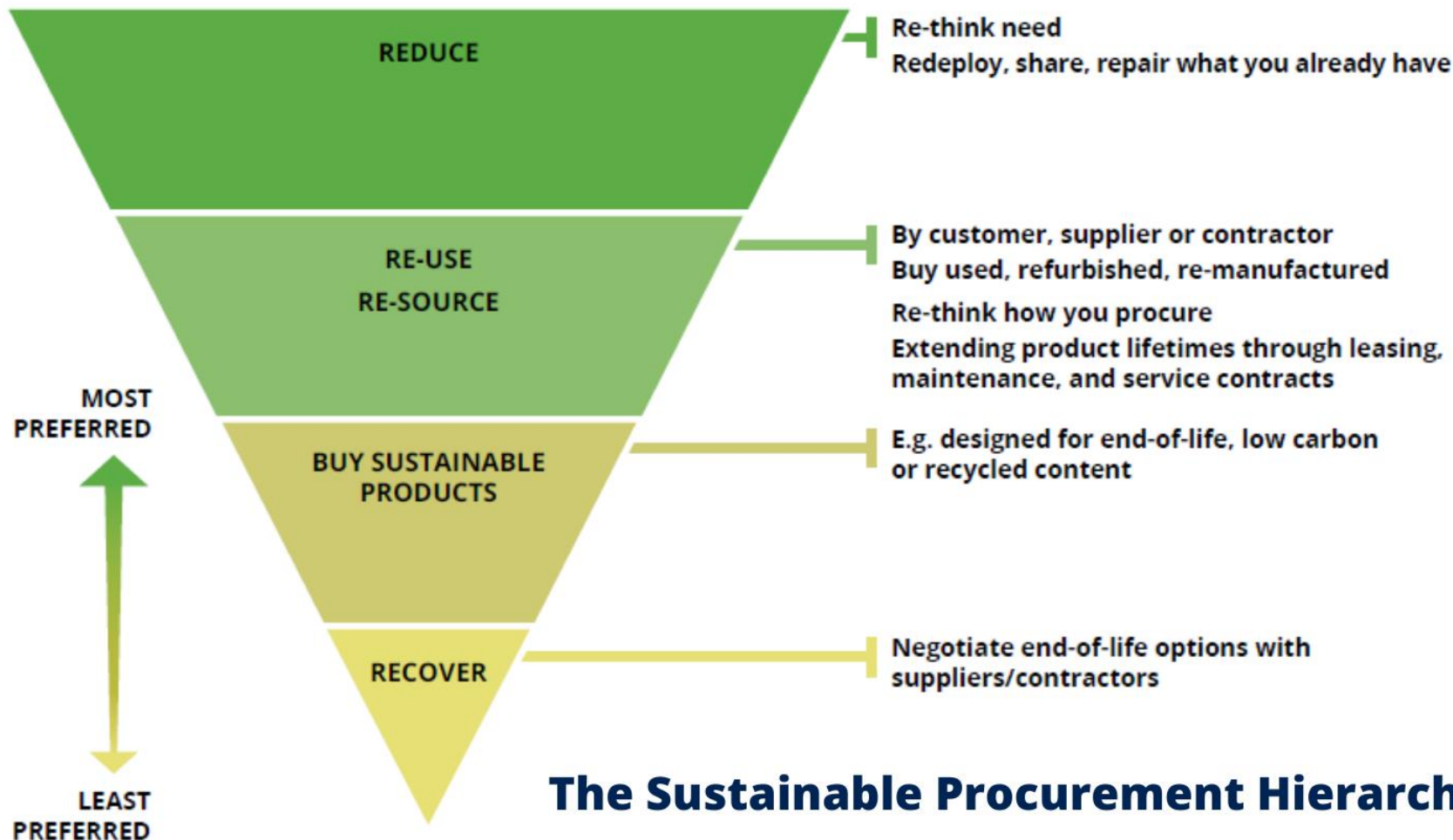
- Ceredigion County Council consumables & Caerphilly CC framework
- Monmouthshire and Pembrokeshire Milk bottle studies
- Sustainable Procurement Hierarchy Guidance
- National Procurement Service (Wales) tool to help determine CO2 KPI's such as:
  - Carbon distribution – greenhouse gas emissions per delivery mile;
  - Waste generation - food waste generated per kg of product;
  - Food waste not recycled – per kg of product;
  - Water consumption - per kg of product;
  - Packaging - proportion of post-consumer recycled content, as a proportion of total packaging used;
  - Sustainable and Welsh products - as a proportion of total product lines sold.
- Public Sector Guidance on the procurement of sustainable products
- **[www.WRAPCymru.org.uk/public-sector](http://www.WRAPCymru.org.uk/public-sector)**





# Mobile Phone Example

- 63% have changed phone in the last 3 years
- equates to 30 phones over a lifetime
- each phone contains nearly half of the empirical table elements (106 total)
- Rare earth materials linked to child exploitation, pollution and significant CO2 impact
- 50% or people never dispose of their phones
- 53% of UK have paid for mobile phone repairs in the last 2 years (MOUS 2020)
- Designed for obsolescence? Eg how long will software be supported?



# Fairphone Example

- Modular design-made for ease of replacing parts and upgrades
- Made from 100% recycled materials/fairtrade or conflict free
- Manufacturers pay a fair wage
- Software support for 5+ years and longer if possible
- Take back system for refurbishment or recycle
- Life cycle costs? Would this be a better model??



# CONTACT US

## **WRAP Cymru**

Carlyle House  
5-7 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9HA  
Wales

[Huw.Lloyd@wrap.org.uk](mailto:Huw.Lloyd@wrap.org.uk)

Tel: +44 7739 745130

**[wrapcymru.org.uk](http://wrapcymru.org.uk)**



@WRAP\_Cymru