


Unit 305: Sustainability in professional kitchens

Handout 3: The waste hierarchy

Waste hierarchy is a tool used to evaluate processes that protect the environment, from most favourable to least favourable actions.

It gives top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling, then recovery, and last of all disposal (e.g. landfill).

Stages:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using less material in design and manufacture.• Keeping products for longer; re-use. Using less hazardous materials.• Checking, cleaning, repairing, refurbishing, whole items or spare parts.• Turning waste into a new substance or product. Includes composting if it meets quality protocols.• Includes anaerobic digestion, incineration with energy recovery, gasification and pyrolysis which produce energy (fuels, heat and power) and materials from waste; some backfilling.• Landfill and incineration without energy recovery.
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