

1. REDUCE

Strict avoidance and reduction at source.

Reduce means using fewer resources in the first place and throwing away less. It includes strict avoidance as well as reduction at source. Waste reduction can be defined as the complete range of measures and actions taken up before a substance, material or product becomes waste.

The best waste is the one that is not produced!

How to reduce waste in everyday life?

A few sustainable habits:

USE 'NO JUNK MAIL' STICKER ON YOUR LETTERBOX



DRINK TAP WATER



PLAN YOUR SHOPPING TO AVOID UNNECESSARY PURCHASES



CHECK "BEST BY" DATES TO AVOID FOOD WASTE



BUY UNPACKED FOODS



BUY IN BULK OR IN LARGE-SIZE PACKAGING



SERVE RIGHT PORTIONS: NO NEED TO FEED THE BIN



COOK WITH LEFTOVERS



LIMIT PRINTING, PRINT DOUBLE-SIDE



START COMPOSTING



Why is waste reduction important?

- Too much waste is being produced: about 500 kg/p in EU Member States!
- Production and consumption represents nearly 50% of CO₂ emissions!
- Waste management puts an economic burden on public authorities and their citizens

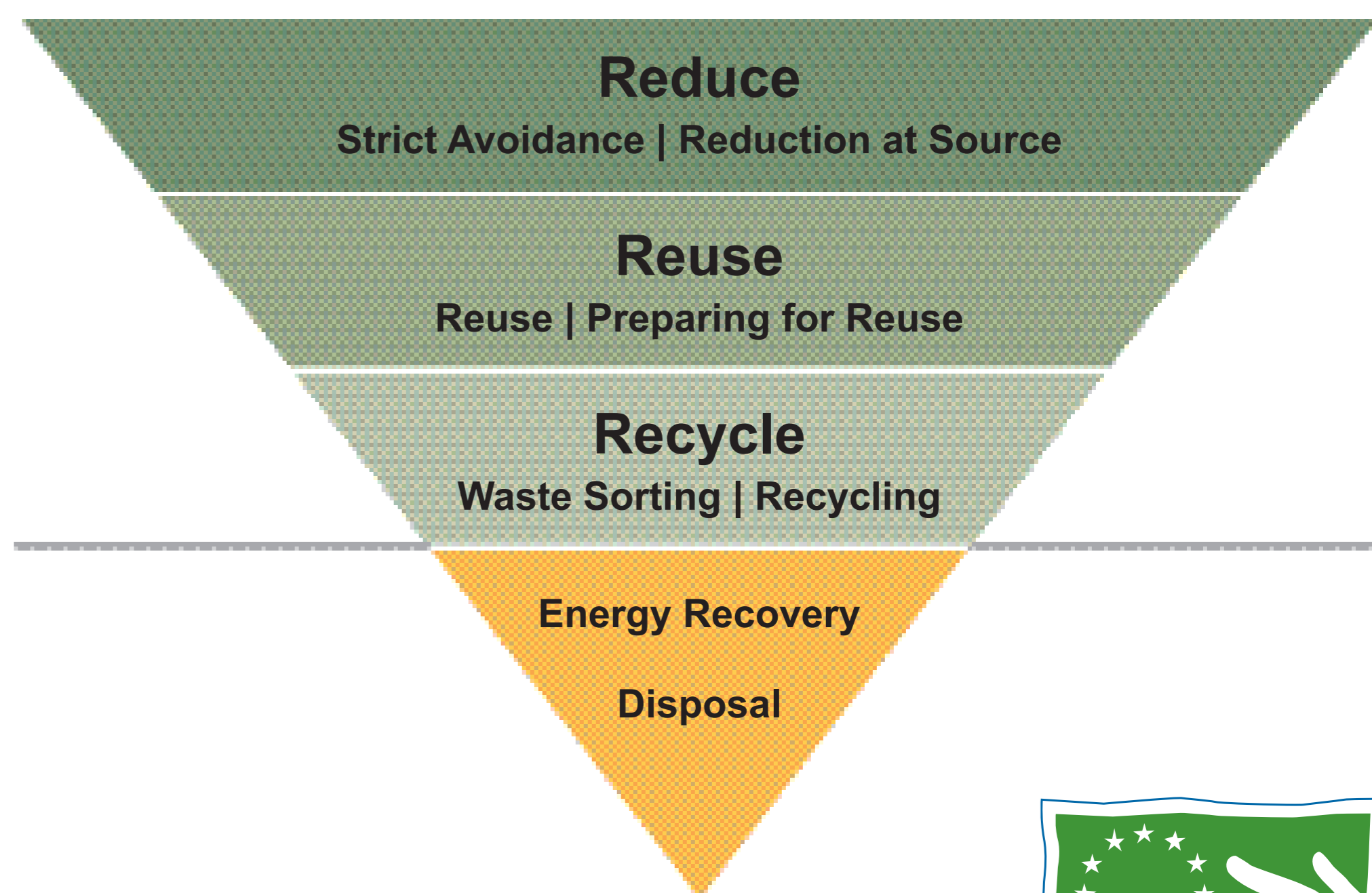
Waste reduction is essential to preserve natural resources and to minimise pollution!

Besides the environmental impact, waste management also puts an economic burden on public authorities and their citizens through the need of waste collection and waste treatment infrastructures.

In this context, waste reduction has become a simple and essential concept in the area of waste and resource management by dealing with end-of-life products and addressing natural resources scarcity.

The 3RS

The actions implemented in the EWWR are addressing the "3RS": Reduce waste, Reuse products, Recycle material. The "3RS" represent the options which should be considered first when elaborating a waste management strategy.



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2. REUSE

Preparing for reuse and reuse.

Reuse means recovering and reusing products or their components. It includes both preparing for reuse and reuse.

- **Preparing for reuse** refers to checking, cleaning or repairing operations, by which products or their components are prepared in a way so that they will be reused without any other pre-processing.
- **Reuse** means the direct reuse of products or components for the same purpose for which they were produced.

Reusing items decreases the use of material and energy resources and reduces pollution and natural capital degradation. Recycling does so too, but to a lesser degree.

Reusing products is thus the second best option in waste management, after reducing!

How to integrate reuse in everyday life?

A few sustainable habits:

DONATE OLD CLOTHING AND TOYS



USE REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS



BUY SECOND-HAND (CLOTHES, BOOKS, TOYS, FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS)



PARTICIPATE IN SWAP EVENTS



REUSE OFFICE SUPPLIES OR DONATE THEM TO SCHOOLS, SOCIAL ENTERPRISES OR REUSE ORGANISATIONS



BORROW OR HIRE TOOLS



USE OLD PRODUCTS AND MATERIAL IN A CREATIVE WAY TO GIVE THEM A NEW LIFE



REPAIR GOODS AND APPLIANCES



BUY ECO-RECHARGEABLE OR REFILLABLE PRODUCTS



Why is reuse important?

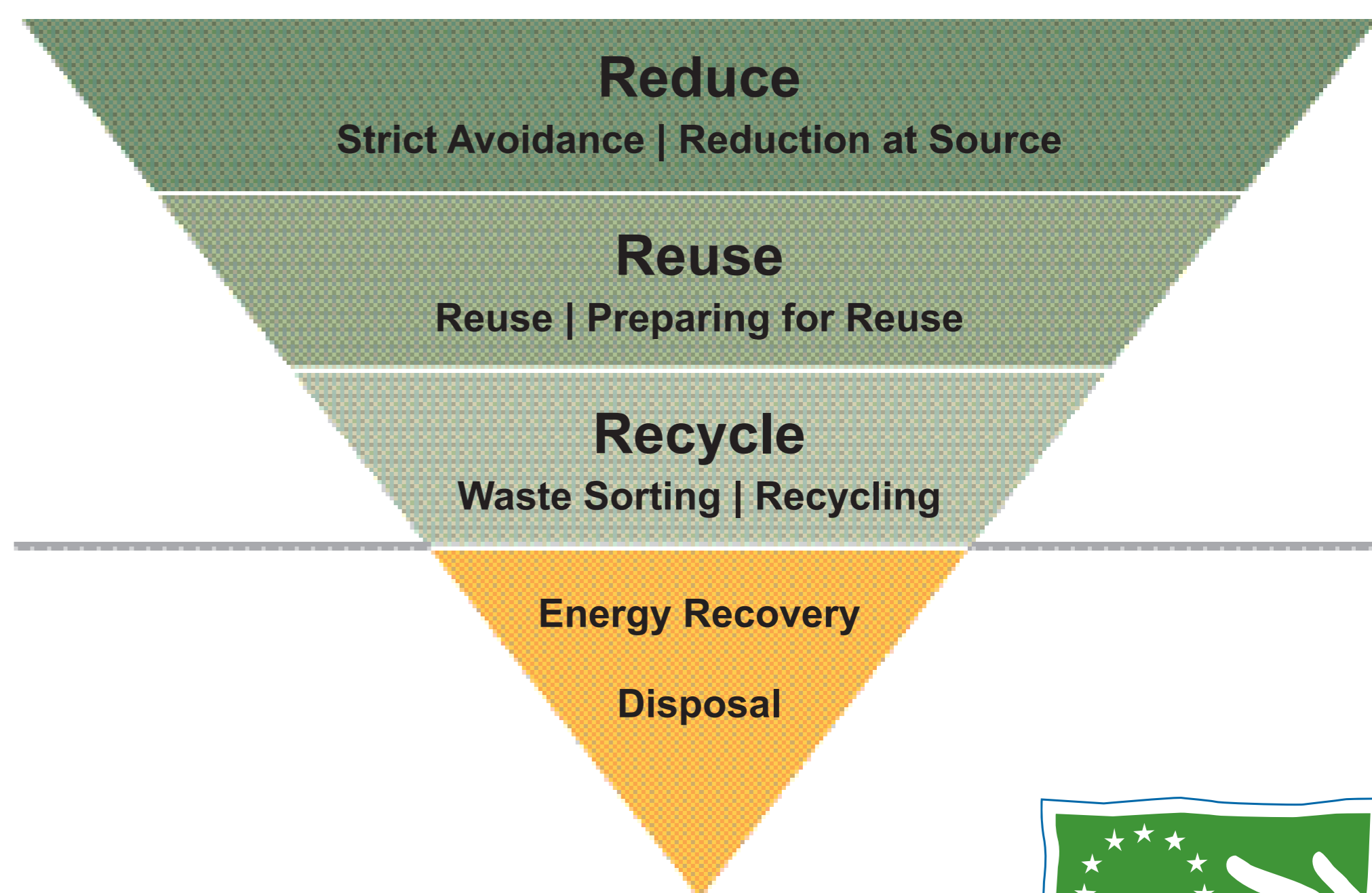
Reuse confronts the same problems than reduce: There is too much waste being produced in the European Union! By extending the lifespan of products, preparing for reuse and reuse are influential measures to reduce the amount of waste produced. Reuse has a strong value for sustainable development because it not only promotes environmental protection through waste prevention but also contributes to social aims and has economic benefits.

Benefits of reuse

- **Environmental:** Less energy and resources used to manufacture new products & less waste, pollution and greenhouse gases produced.
- **Social:** Fight against poverty, social inclusion, job creation and training opportunities.
- **Economic:** Monetary savings (cheaper 2nd hand products, less social costs for state) & savings on energy, materials and chemicals

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3. RECYCLE

Waste Sorting and recycle.

Recycling means any recovery operation taking place after collection and by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations.

Recycle materials to put them back in the product loop and save resources!

How to support recycling? A few sustainable habits:

START RECYCLING AT HOME & IN THE OFFICE

- GET THE RIGHT SORTING EQUIPMENT
- FIND OUT WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED
- CHECK THE RECYCLING COLLECTION DATES WITH YOUR MUNICIPALITY



BUY PRODUCTS THAT CAN BE RECYCLED



BRING OLD MATERIAL TO CIVIC AMENITY SITES AND BRING BANKS



BUY PRODUCTS WITH TAKE-BACK SYSTEM



BUY PRODUCTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE FROM RECYCLED MATERIAL



Why is recycling important?

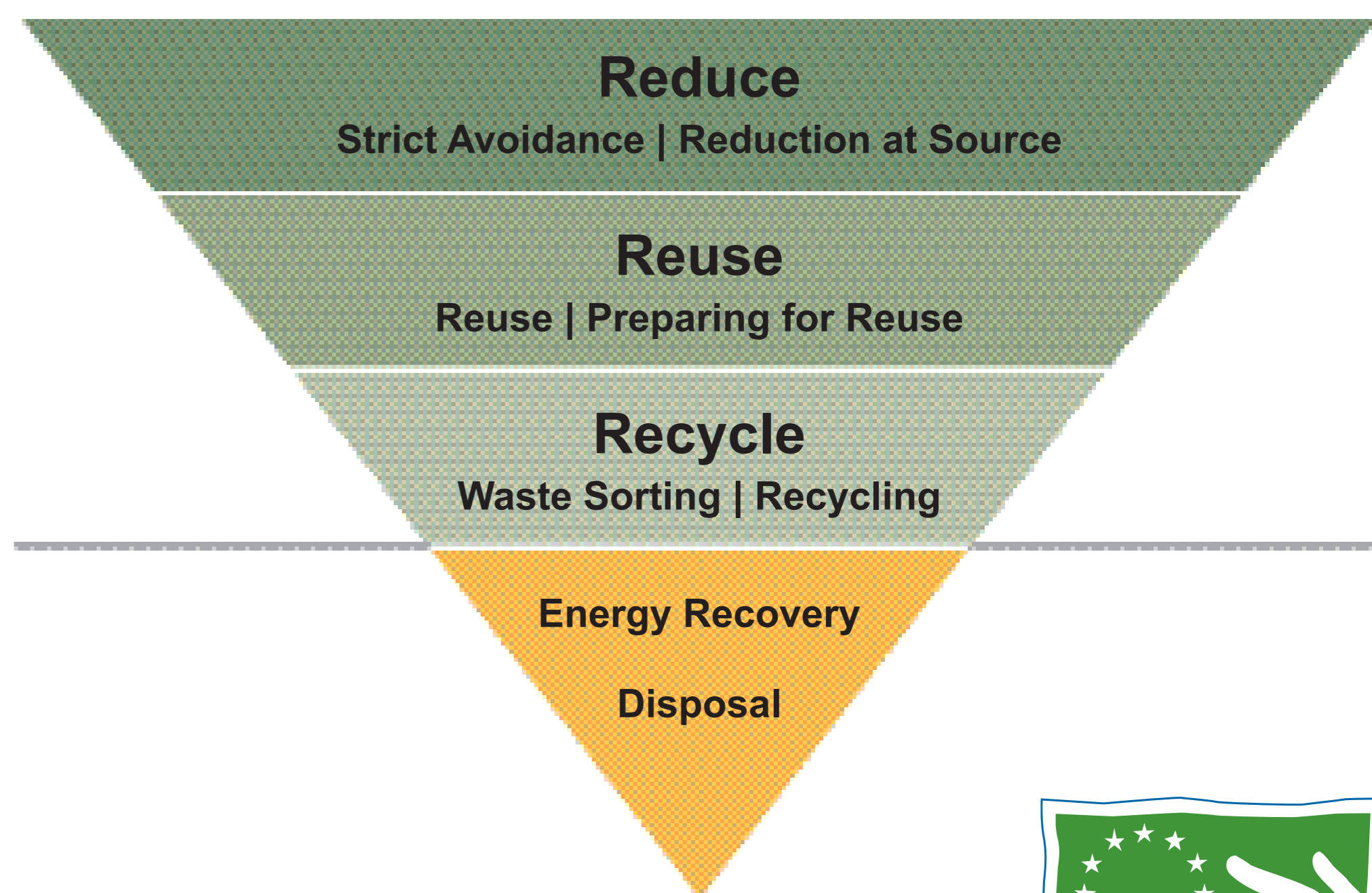
Recycling reduces the amount of waste that is landfilled or incinerated and secures that waste material, after being transformed, forms part in manufacturing new products. Through recycling, waste constitutes a source of secondary raw material. Recycling therefore helps to decrease the use of material and energy resources and reduces pollution and natural capital degradation.

Benefits of recycling

- Reduces the amount of waste and resources lost in landfills or burnt;
- Prevents pollution by reducing the need to collect new raw materials;
- Saves energy needed to make new products from raw material;
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change;
- Helps sustain the environment for future generations;
- Helps create new well-paying jobs in the recycling and manufacturing industries.

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