Waste Hierarchy

There is a national agreed hierarchy of waste management principals that apply Board wide. These principles are based on a simple and straightforward guide to waste production.

Waste Reduction

Waste reduction involves minimising waste at source ie. avoiding producing waste, which reduces raw material use and production costs. This also reduces the cost of waste collection and disposal.

Waste reduction shouldn’t be a chore. It is just a matter of changing habits which will quickly becomes second nature.

Re-use

The term re-use refers to where waste is put back into the system without changing it chemically or physically. Historically many products were dealt with in this way eg. milk or soda bottles. Throughout the Board, internal envelopes are a good example.

Recovery

This involves the recycling of as much waste as practical from the disposal route. The most common of these will be cardboard, paper, glass and cans. Garden and kitchen waste can be composted and reused. Where possible we need to re-use any waste bi-products eg. after it has been through the Heat Disinfection System treatment process, clinical waste leaves a material called flock which can be burned and may in the future be used to generate energy in the form of heat.

Disposal

The last resort in the waste hierarchy, which may involve landfill, heat or incineration.