The Waste Hierarchy

☺MORE DESIRABLE

REFUSE/REDUCE

Best

(Use less in the first place by being waste conscious in what you buy and how you use it)

REUSE

Better

(Use the same item more than once, preferably many times rather than disposing of it)

RECYCLE

Good

(Send a used product to a factory where it is remade into either the same product or something different)

+ COMPOST

(Fungi, bacteria, worms and other tiny organisms turn food scraps and garden waste into a rich, soil-like material)

RECOVERY OF ENERGY

(Technologies that use waste as a feedstock for generating energy)

TREATMENT

(Additional processing of waste to reduce its toxicity, or increase its degradability or compostability)

CONTAINMENT

(Storing prescribed/hazardous waste so it doesn't contaminate the environment)

DISPOSAL

(Depositing waste into landfill)

☹LESS DESIRABLE