Last Reviewed 4/5/2023

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY - KSD ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LTD

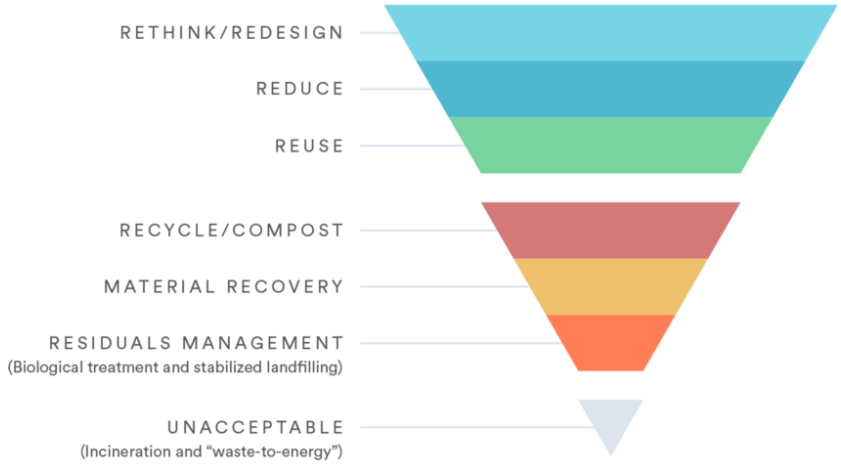
Summary

Sustainable waste management aims to keep materials in use for as long as possible and minimize the amount of solid waste that is disposed of in landfill or through incineration. However, in our existing linear economy, waste begins even before products are manufactured, and a more in-depth approach to sustainable waste management must focus on the entire lifecycle of a product to enable us to help reduce the negative environmental, social, and financial impacts of 21st-century consumption.

The question then, of what exactly is sustainable waste management, is important if we are to refine and improve our existing waste management systems. Whether focusing on waste reduction at end-of-life or designing waste out of the production cycle at the conceptual stage, new waste management practices are required to effectively deal with existing waste streams while also reducing the amount of waste at the same time.

What makes sustainable waste management so important?

Sustainable waste management is a central part of a broader circular economy. It's a systemic approach to economic development that stands in opposition to the take-make-waste model and aims to separate growth from the consumption of finite resources. Sustainable waste management helps tackle the broader issues of a linear consumption society, but also offers more direct solutions to the many problems waste causes.
Failing to follow the sustainable waste management hierarchy means that otherwise usable goods and materials are sent to landfill or incinerators as part of energy recovery programs.



Placing waste on the hierarchy

Sustainable waste management relies on the waste management hierarchy, a system that focuses on avoidance, reduction, reuse, recycling, energy recovery, and finally, treatment or disposal. It aims to prioritize actions for the most efficient use of resources, placing renewable and less wasteful practices at the top of the pyramid. Here, we look at how the waste management hierarchy is central to sustainable waste management.

Avoidance and reduction

Avoiding and reducing the amount of waste generated is the first priority. This can be achieved by maximizing efficiency and reducing consumption. First, businesses and individuals should choose products that require the fewest resources to produce (including the packaging). Additionally, single-use or disposable goods should be avoided wherever possible— these materials are the embodiment of linear waste in which resources are extracted, processed, and distributed only to quickly become waste.

Reuse and recycling

If the consumption of a product can't be avoided, then there should be a focus on purchasing products that can be reused or repaired, as well as

education around how to reuse waste products. Reusing is preferred to options lower down the hierarchy since it can be done without processing new materials, which takes money, energy, and often other resources. Reuse, which is also one of the central tenets of the zero-waste philosophy, can come in the form of having shoes repaired, donating clothes and items for others to use and even researching recipes for food leftovers rather than throwing them in the trash.

If an item can't be reused, then the next best option is to recycle. This is where the process starts to look like conventional waste management since we are now dealing with materials that have reached the end of their usable life in their current form. Recycling, like reuse, keeps materials in the loop, avoiding the need to extract virgin resources as well as negating some of the negative impacts of simply disposing of waste.

Recycling is considered less desirable than the previous options since it requires energy, money, and resources to turn waste back into usable materials.

That said, the benefits associated with recycling varies dramatically from material to material, with the likes of aluminum more than covering the cost of its own recycling while saving more than 90% of the energy required as compared with using virgin metal. Glass, on the other hand, has energy savings of only 10 to 15%, still being a better alternative to simple waste disposal. Composting is also found at this step of the hierarchy since it allows organic waste to be diverted from landfill and turned into something that can be useful in growing new produce.

Treatment or disposal

The last and least desirable step in the hierarchy is treatment or disposal. This generally means landfills or incineration without energy recovery. This will inevitably happen to some waste but should be avoided for as long as possible through sustainable waste management.

Reuse is better than recycling, so considering whether a business can donate any materials that would otherwise go to waste is a great way to improve sustainability. This could be overstocked foods in stores and restaurants, old hardware from offices, out-of-promotion goods from non-food stores, or even materials from renovations.

Waste management can be sustainable in both businesses and homes if the right framework is implemented. But more importantly, the consequences, if waste is left unchecked, are too great not to consider.

Environmental / Sustainability Statement

KSD Environmental Services Ltd, is a waste management company based in East Sussex. This policy relates to our activities at Newhaven Waste Transfer Station and all sites operated/managed by us.

We are committed to fulfilling our responsibility to minimise the impact that our activities may have on the environment.

We have developed an Environmental Management System (EMS) which is the framework underpinning our commitment to the prevention of pollution and the continual improvement in the environmental performance of the site. The EMS will be used as the primary mechanism for the setting, measuring and monitoring of environmental objectives to drive continual improvement. It also provides details on the operational procedures in place at the site and instructions on the recording and reporting of accidents, incidents, non-conformances and complaints.

We are committed to operating in accordance with all applicable environmental legislation and regulations and other requirements to which we subscribe.

We are committed to the prevention of pollution from our activities and actions and will ensure that all activities carrying a risk of pollution in any form are identified and where possible eliminated or controlled effectively through the adoption of appropriate control methods.

We will take due consideration of the concerns of interested parties such as regulators, shareholders, employees and the public, and will make sure that these are recorded and dealt with promptly.

We will ensure that all people that work for us and on our behalf are aware of this policy and are adequately trained in their environmental responsibilities.

We support the adoption of similar environmental standards and commitments by our suppliers and customers.

Copies of this policy statement are freely available to the public and other interested bodies.

This policy will be internally reviewed on an annual basis, and amendments may be made as stipulated by legislation, changes in company activities or external requirements.