

TABLE 2: EXPANDING THE SA WASTE MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY

Circular economy principle	Waste management hierarchy tier	Actions/outcomes sought
ACTIVITIES THAT PREVENT OR REDUCE WASTE GENERATION		
Source prevention of waste/more resource efficient product design, manufacture and use		
Eliminate waste and pollution	AVOID Avoidance of the production of waste	Refuse: avoid over-consumption of products; make product use more intensive; use existing; use sparingly; do without; make it yourself Redesign: design products to need fewer material inputs and fewer material types; to eliminate problematic or hazardous materials, inputs or components that cause environmental harm; to reduce packaging; to increase shelf life through improved food packaging and labelling Increase resource efficiency in production: consume fewer raw natural resources and materials and reduce waste in product manufacture; avoid food waste; repurpose food scraps without processing for animal feed, repurpose food scraps into other products Avoid surplus food and goods: reduce the volume of surplus food generated; donate edible surplus food to food redistribution charities; ensure a first life for excess unsold goods
Extend lifespan of products and its parts/keeping items in use/retain value and function		
Keep products in use for as long as possible	REDUCE Minimisation of the production of waste	Redesign: design for quality, durability and longevity; design for service; design for product reuse and repair Borrow or rent: borrow; rent/lease; ‘product as a service’; outsource; get digitally Buy to last: buy durable, reusable, repairable, upgradable
	REUSE Reuse of waste	Reuse yourself: participate in reuse scheme; reuse own item, repurpose own item, repair own item Reuse by another/share with others: reuse by another consumer of discarded product to fulfil its original function, eg rescue, receive, source, buy second hand; lend, borrow, swap, share own item; sell, give away, donate; return for resale, repair or disassembly Repair: repair and maintenance of defective product so it can be used for its original function Refurbish or upgrade: restore an old product to bring it up to date, preserve, upcycle Re-manufacture: Use parts of discarded product into a new product with the same function

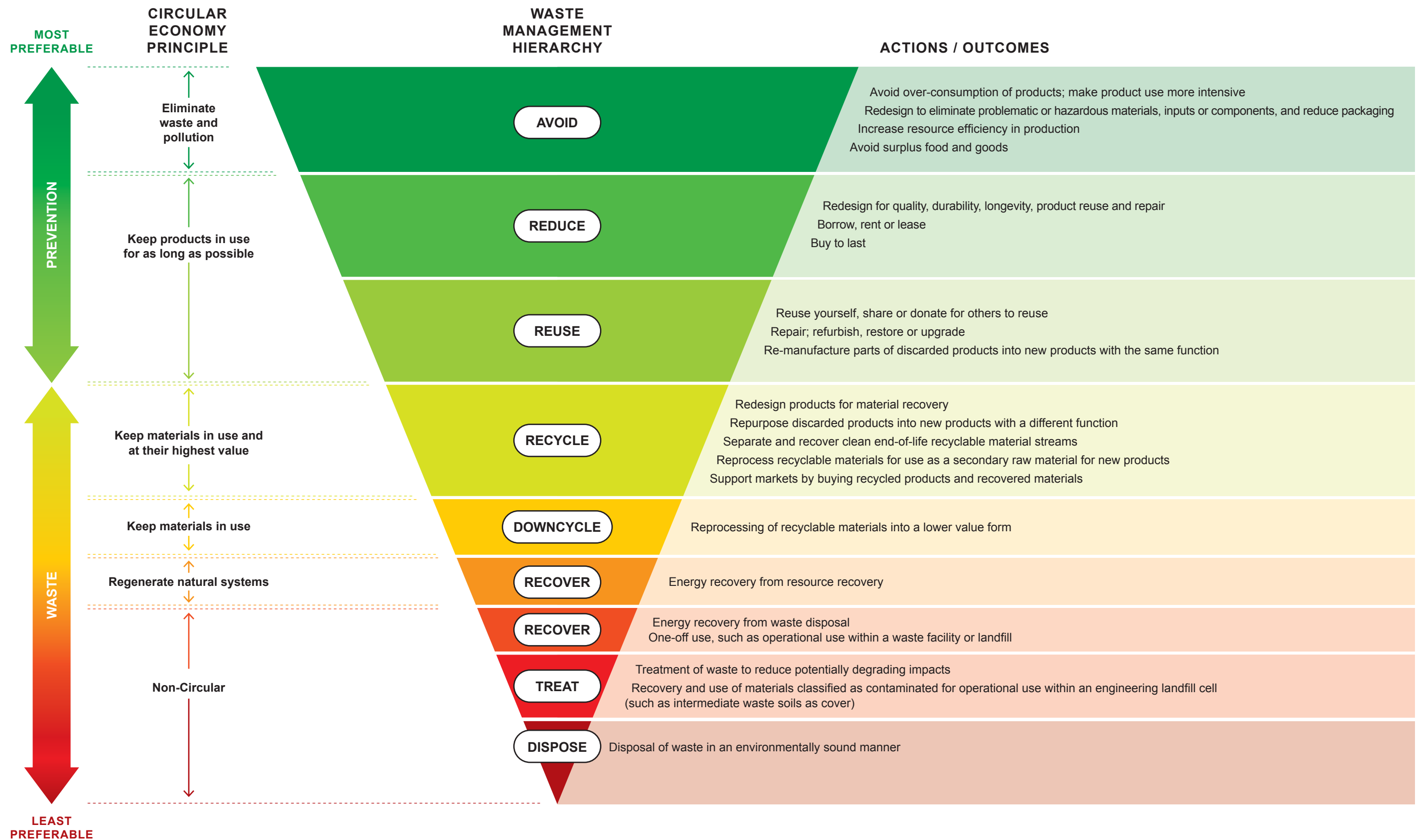
ACTIVITIES THAT DIVERT WASTE FROM LANDFILL AFTER ITEMS HAVE ENTERED THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Keeping materials in use/beneficial application of recovered materials to regenerate natural systems

Keep materials in use and at their highest value	RECYCLE Recycling of waste	Redesign: design products for material recovery Support markets for recycled products and recovered materials: produce, sell or buy products that are recyclable; sell, buy and use recycled content products; identify circular recycling opportunities for use of end-of-life products or materials, at their highest value Recover: recover clean end-of-life recyclable material streams through source segregation and separate collections Repurpose: use discarded products or its parts in a new product with a different function, at their highest value Reprocess: reprocess recyclable materials for use as a secondary raw material for new products, at their highest value
Keep materials in use	DOWNCYCLE Downcycling	Downcycle: reprocessing of recyclable materials into a lower value form such as glass into road base
Regenerate natural systems	RECOVER Recovery of energy and other resources from waste	Energy recovery from resource recovery: anaerobic digestion of recovered organic matter to generate biogas with residual digestate for beneficial use in application to land

ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NON-CIRCULAR

Non-circular	RECOVER Recovery of energy and other resources from waste	One-off use: one-off use, such as operational use of recovered materials within a waste facility or landfill Energy recovery from waste disposal: for example incineration (including refuse derived fuel); pyrolysis; gasification; landfill gas capture; anaerobic digestion to generate biogas with residual waste disposed to landfill; bioreactor landfill that produces biogas for electricity generation with digestate remaining in landfill cell
	TREAT Treatment of waste to reduce potentially degrading impacts	Treat: treatment of waste to reduce potentially degrading impacts Use of contaminated materials: recovery and use of materials classified as contaminated for operational reuse within an engineered landfill cell (such as intermediate waste soils as cover)
	DISPOSE Disposal of waste in an environmentally sound manner	Dispose: Disposal of waste in an environmentally sound manner



MOST
PREFERABLE



LEAST
PREFERABLE

