

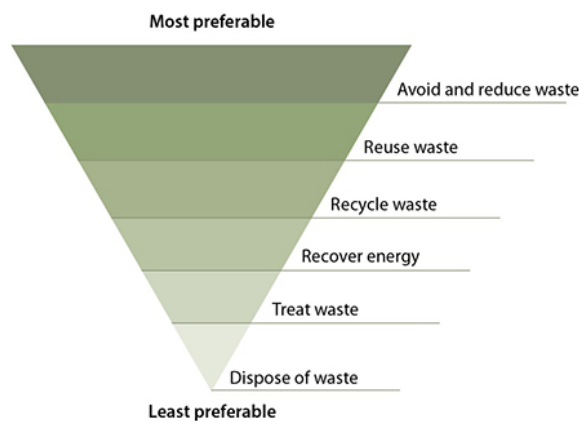
East Herts Council Single Use Plastics Position and Principles Statement

1. Background and Context

- 1.1. Recent years have seen a considerable increase in the focus on single use plastics and their impact on the environment.
- 1.2. The UK and the EU have published environmental strategies and both aim to reduce single use plastics.
- 1.3. Single use plastics are not explicitly covered in East Herts Council's Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2024. This Position and Principles Statement aims to lay out the council's approach to the issue.

2. The Waste Hierarchy

There is now a widely recognised hierarchy of how to deal with materials, including single use plastics. The 'waste hierarchy' is given below. It runs from the least disposal approach which is to simply throwing the material away after it's been used once up to the best approach which to reduce usage or preferably avoid using the material in the first place.



3. Position and Principles on Single Use Plastics

- 3.1. The council's position is that where it is within our means we will:
 - recognise the waste hierarchy and promote and publicise the message that we and others should endeavour to reduce, reuse or recycle plastics wherever possible
 - continually challenge ourselves to move up through the waste hierarchy by recycling plastics rather than throwing them away, reusing plastics wherever possible rather than recycling and maximising a reduction in plastics use in the first place
 - use our influence with partners, including licensing, to assist them move up through the waste hierarchy, especially at public events, providing practical support wherever possible
 - embark on direct actions and projects to reduce the single use plastic usage
 - support national campaigns to reduce plastics use
 - recognise that the benefits of reducing single use plastics go hand-in-hand with greater recycling and less use of other materials such as paper, glass and metals.