



Alliance for a Clean Environment

Promoting Community Right to Know and Environmental Health and Justice in WA

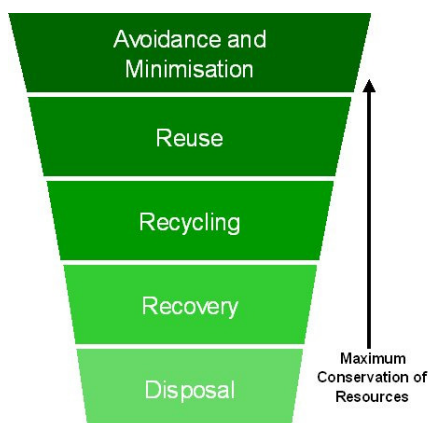
Changing the Rules for Dirty Energy

“Together, the work of the strategic Waste Infrastructure Planning Working Group and the recent arrival in WA of proponents for thermal waste to energy technologies have prompted discussions about the need for resource recovery to be implemented at the highest point possible in the hierarchy for any given material.” Marcus Geisler, WA Waste Authority Chair.

As can be seen by the comparison of the old WA waste hierarchy against the new, the WA Waste Authority have done exactly that....boosted incineration up the hierarchy to be equivalent to reuse and recycling.

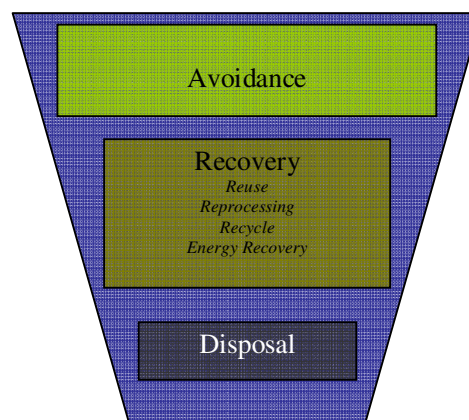
This decision is designed to redefine principles of sustainability and waste management that have been accepted around the world for many years even in countries where incinerators operate. In effect it allows thermal waste disposal technologies to be redefined as equally beneficial to the environment as recycling and reusing. This is a scandalous manipulation of accepted sustainability criteria to justify the establishment of a dirty energy industry in Western Australia.

OLD



NEW

(adapted from figure 1. Waste Authority Communication on the Waste Hierarchy)



Thermal waste treatment technologies such as combustion, plasma arc, pyrolysis and gasification are all defined as incineration technologies under the European Union’s Waste Directive. Incineration is regarded around the world as waste disposal because the thermal destruction of the waste means that it cannot be

reused or composted to provide carbon sequestration and soil nutrients or recycled into a new life product. It is released as carbon dioxide (and many other toxic compounds) into the atmosphere and produces a toxic ash requiring secure landfill. The embedded energy in the burned product, including energy already expended in extraction, transport and manufacture is lost to the atmosphere. The replacement process for that product means that virgin materials must be extracted again and manufactured into new goods involving vast amounts of energy, water and chemicals.

The WA Waste Authority have quietly redefined our waste hierarchy so as to allow waste incinerators to obtain government renewable energy funds as already flagged by the coalition government.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/breaking/18024132/coalition-may-back-wa-energy/>

Our waste is better used to provide clean compost, reusable and recycled goods and generate many green jobs. The WA Waste Authority is supporting a dirty energy industry at the expense of green jobs, better environmental outcomes and real sustainable, renewable energy.

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Reference- WA Waste Authority Communication on the Waste Hierarchy, 2013.