The Waste Hierarchy – from the Government's waste and resource efficiency strategy

Best option	Reduce the resources being used and redesign to avoid producing waste
	Keep things in use for as long as possible, without significant reprocessing
	Process materials to make the same or different material of similar value when reuse is no longer possible
	Recover any remaining value, sustainably and without increasing emissions (eg, chemical recycling, renewable energy)
Least favoured option	For any truly residual waste, treat to remove or reduce potential harm before final disposal