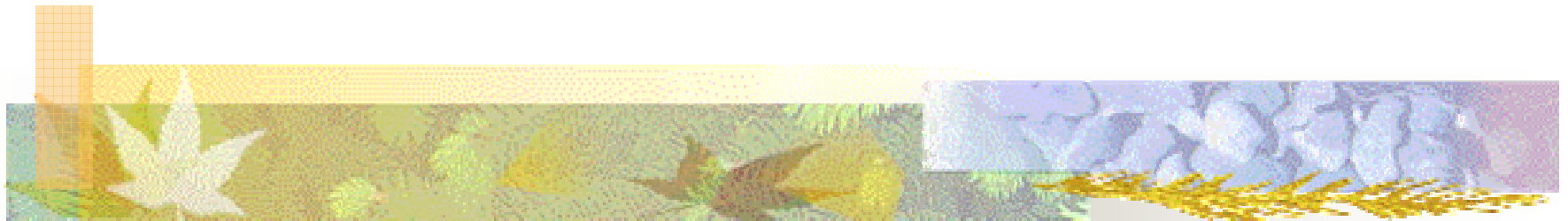


A Regional Approach to Waste Management



Ron Ellis

South East Local Government Association

LGA Conference, 7th October 2005

The SELGA Region



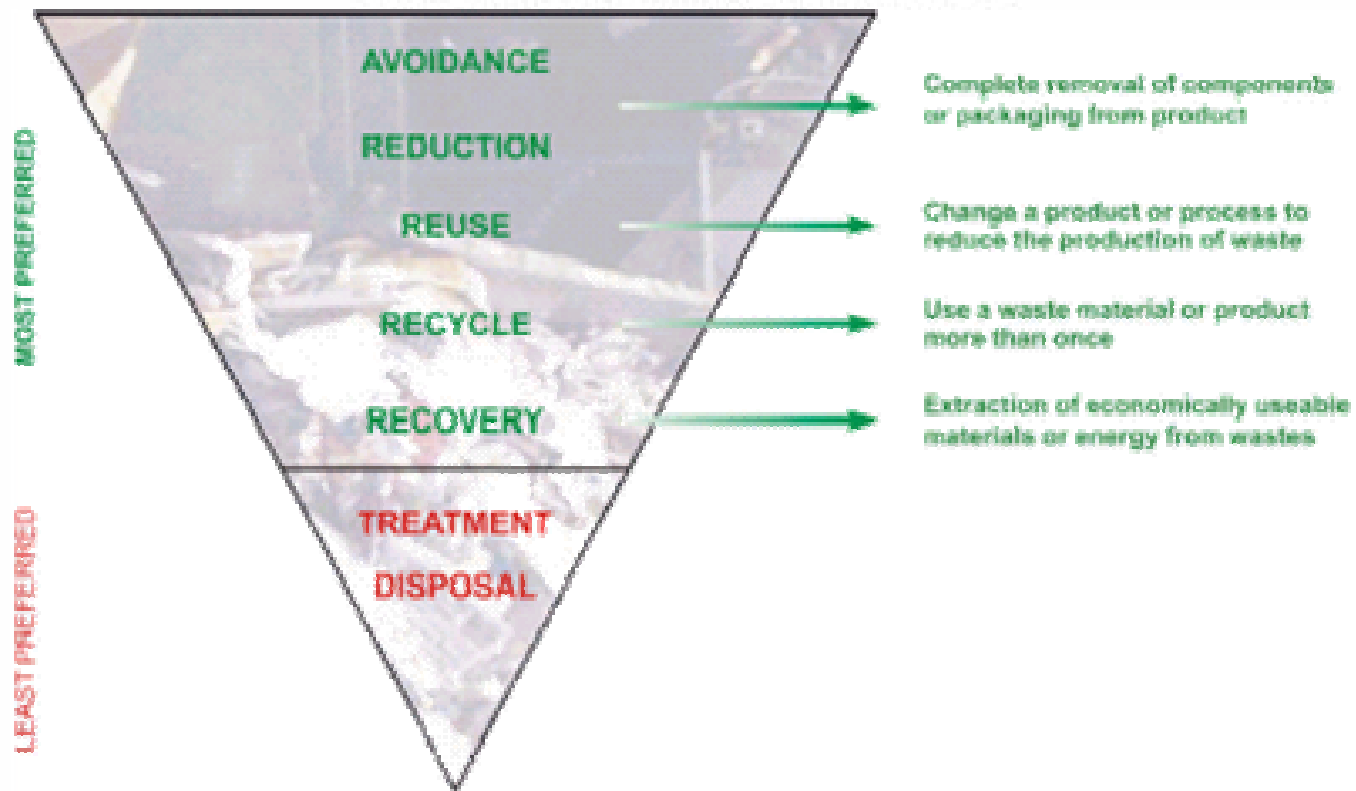
Motivators for a Regional Plan

- Escalating costs to Councils
- Lack of economies of scale
- More demanding regulations
- Heightened community expectations



Waste Management Hierarchy (the key doctrine)

Figure 7.4 Waste Management Hierarchy





Plan Development

- Regional Waste Management Plan (2004)
- Landfill Rationalisation and Resource Recovery Options for the South East (2005)
- South East Organic Waste Management Plan (2005)



Benefits of a Regional Plan

- Triggered an overdue reality check
- Fostered common understandings and aims
- Enabled more effective regional advocacy
- Identified potential cost efficiencies in landfills and waste recovery / recycling



Outcomes and Key Issues

- Ratepayers facing steep increase in rates:
- Cost now of landfill waste - \$52 per capita pa

In the next 5 years or so:

- Add, landfill compliance and closures - \$43
- Add, cost of range of recycling measures - \$25



Regional Action Plan

Extend life of retained landfills by:

- Expanding organic recovery and recycling
- Implementing domestic and industrial recycling

Plan for rationalised landfill system by:

- Standardising charges, services, standards, records
- Closing 7-8 landfills, replace with transfer stations
- Planning regional landfill facility– but defer costs



Challenges in Implementation

- Regional plans must harmonise with State Waste Strategy (2005)
- Regional plans need support of the State - philosophical and financial
- Councils have to cooperate and compromise - for smaller councils there is no choice
- Regional waste body unresolved - may be needed for regional landfill businesses
- Biggest job – changing public hearts and minds



Acknowledgements

- To SELGA Waste Committee – for daring to make a difference
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