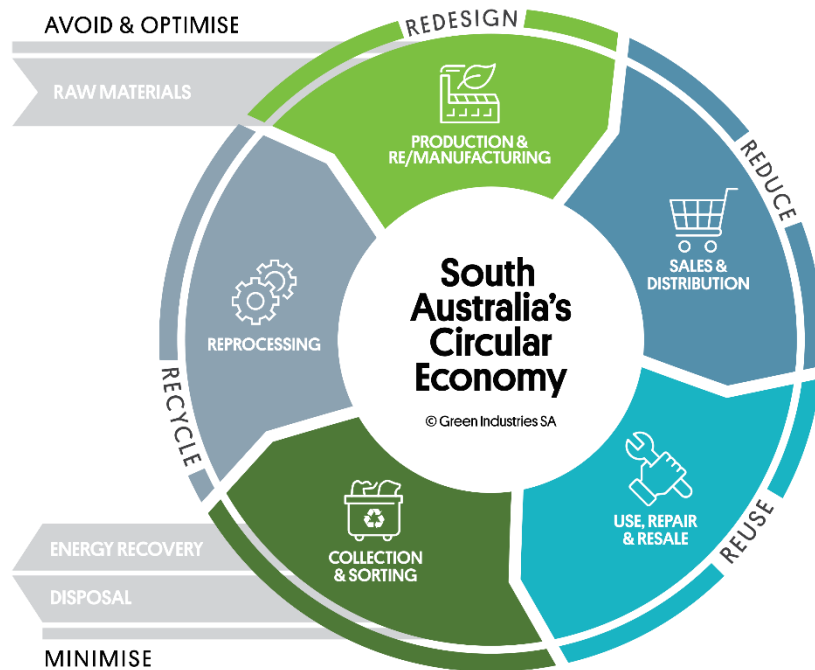


## BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY – THE GAME CHANGER

Sustainability is not just reducing impacts on the environment and society, but getting the most out of our resources, including energy, water, waste, labour, and capital.

The circular economy, where less natural and raw materials are used, and products are designed to be reused over and over again, is a sustainable alternative to the current linear ‘take, make, waste’ economy.



Adopting the principles of the circular economy can be beneficial for businesses of all sizes and is a must-have for those wanting to do more with less, and for those wanting to keep pace with customers demanding ‘sustainable’ products and services. And it’s not always difficult or costly. The trick is to start small, focus on one area at a time, and build from there.

But *where* to start? That’s where the team from Green Industries SA (GISA) can help. Understanding how your business currently operates and your waste and resource opportunities are key to kick-starting your sustainability journey.

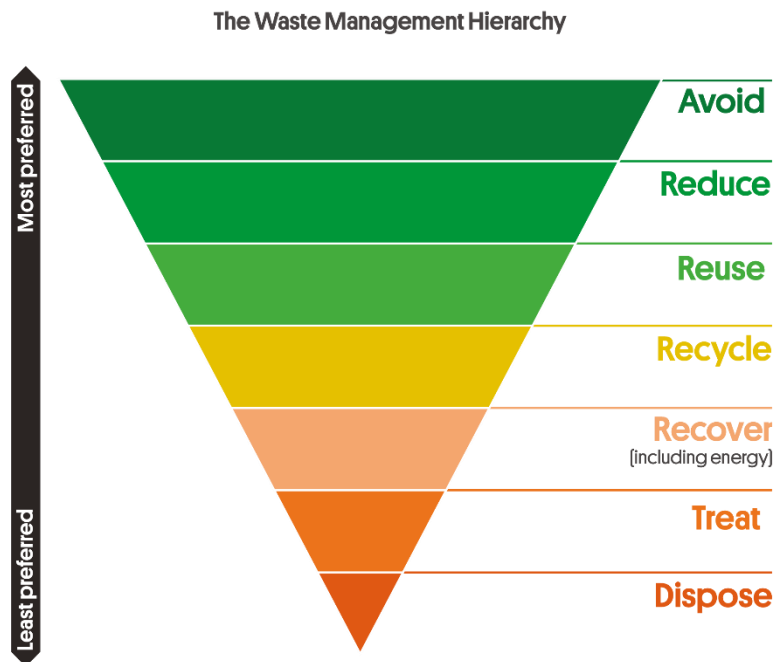
For businesses wanting to make change that is visible to staff, and potentially customers, improving material waste management is a good place to start.

First, audit, assess and evaluate your waste in all its forms.

- What’s in the bins? Why is it there?
- What’s being wasted that might be recovered or reused?
- Ask key suppliers if they can reduce the amount of packaging sent to your business, or supply products in returnable containers.
- See if any materials can be separated into recycling or organics collections to divert them from landfill.
- Find out if any nearby businesses might be able to use your waste output as a material input.

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You can apply key principles for waste management across many aspects of your business. For example, the waste management hierarchy establishes an order of preference for material management.



Remember that waste is not just material based – it can also apply to energy consumption, and time and effort put in by you and staff.

There are plenty of talented resource efficiency and productivity specialists in South Australia that can help businesses plan for a more resource efficient future, as well as the business sustainability team at GISA that is always happy to provide you with free resources, advice, site visits, and connections.

Get in contact with the team via Aubrey Thomas, Program Manager, [aubrey.thomas@sa.gov.au](mailto:aubrey.thomas@sa.gov.au), 0423 782 647.

### **Businesses and industries assisted by the team include:**

- Australia Hotels Association – SA Branch and Matthews Hospitality
- Distillers South Australia
- Festival City Adelaide
- Food South Australia and individual food manufacturers, including Section 28 Cheese
- Motor Trade Association SA/NT
- SA Wine Industry Association and multiple wineries across SA
- SA Independent Retailers and individual supermarkets

### **Useful tools:**

- [Green Industries SA: Waste and Recycling Business Essentials](#)
- [Waste and Recycling: Cafe and Restaurant Basics](#)
- [Waste and Recycling: Office Basics](#)