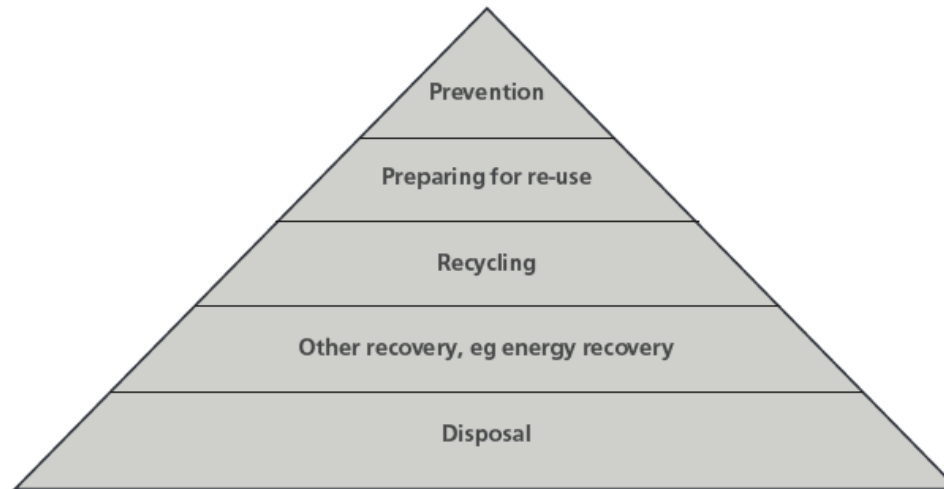


David Wilbraham

Ayrshire Team Unit Manager

EU Policy - Waste Hierarchy

- The Revised Waste Framework Directive provides a new Waste Hierarchy.



- SEPA must take hierarchy into account when developing policy.

Organic materials

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Land restoration

Benefits of applying organic material to land

- Organic matter vital component of healthy soil
- Helps retain and store water – preventing flooding
- Provides essential nutrients for plants
- Filters and retains potential pollutants - protecting the water and air environments
- Improves soil structure
- Prevents erosion

Risks of applying organic materials to land

- Organic materials may contain potential pollutants
- Excessive nutrient content – can lead to N & P entering watercourses or greenhouse gas emission to the atmosphere
- Potentially toxic elements such as Cd, Pb, Zn, persistent organic pollutants etc – can affect plant growth, leach to water environment
- Pathogens & odour

Regulation of Organic Waste

- Non-agricultural applications of organic waste are regulated under Exemptions from the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994.
- Regulations require that wastes are used;
 - for ‘ecological improvement’;
 - without risk to air, soil, & water and;
 - Without detriment to the locality.

Code of Practice

- SEPA considers that the Code of Practice represents best practice and intends to refer to it when assessing Exemption registrations.
- SEPA will provide specific supplementary guidance on application rates for sewage sludge.
- SEPA is looking to use more joint Codes of Practice in carrying out its regulatory function.

Ecological improvement

