

WHAT ARE THE 3RS?

The 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) is one of Singapore's key strategies for solid waste management. In land scarce Singapore, the 3Rs are key to encourage and promote sustainable consumption. The 3Rs stand for:

- **Reduce** – To minimise the amount of waste that needs to be treated or disposed of by reducing the amount of material used at source
- **Reuse** – To use an object or material again, either for its original or similar purpose, without significantly altering the physical form of the object or material
- **Recycle** – The process of transforming waste materials into a reusable form which may or may not be similar to the original product

The benefits of practising the 3Rs go beyond reducing the amount of waste disposed of. There are other benefits that could be reaped such as the competitive advantages that companies can gain through improvement in resource efficiency, reduction of waste disposal costs and enhancement of its corporate image.

WHAT IS A WASTE MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY?

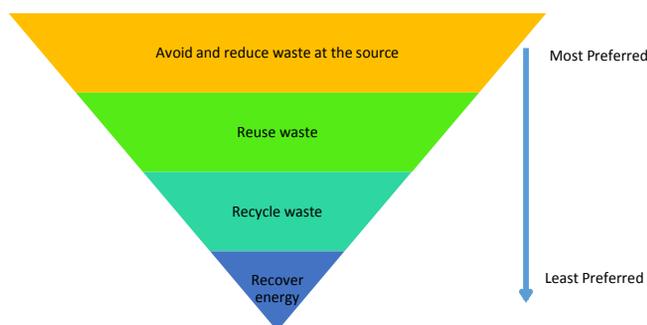


Diagram 1. Waste management hierarchy²

The waste management hierarchy highlights the most preferred waste management method to the least preferred. The most preferred approach is to avoid and reduce the generation of waste, followed by reusing the material as much as possible, and lastly to recycle the waste, so that resources can be recovered for use. With reference to the waste management hierarchy, companies can think about some of these packaging waste minimisation processes:

- Can you reduce the amount of materials used in the packaging while still serving its functions (e.g. protecting the product)?
- If you cannot reduce the amount of materials used, can your packaging be reused after it has served its original purpose?
- If the packaging cannot be reused, can your packaging material be recycled after it has served its original purpose?

RESOURCE GUIDEBOOK FOR PACKAGING 3RS

The Packaging Partnership Programme (PPP) will be launching a Resource Guidebook for Packaging 3Rs which aims to help organisations develop and implement packaging 3R initiatives through the showcase of relevant and successful case studies. Through these case studies, organisations will be able to learn practical and useful information relating to packaging 3Rs, and the measures that they can implement to their operating processes.

The Resource Guidebook will help organisations that are seeking to improve their packaging resource efficiency, as well as obligated companies that are required to submit their packaging reports and 3R plans to comply with the Mandatory Packaging Reporting (MPR) requirements to learn, plan, and implement relevant 3R practices within their operations. Do look out for it!

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS UNDER THE PPP

The PPP conducts workshops and trainings regularly to familiarise companies with the MPR requirements and build industry capability in sustainable packaging waste management. To read about past workshops and trainings or to find out more on upcoming programmes, do visit our website: <http://www.packaging-partnership.org.sg>.

SIGN UP AS A PPP MEMBER TODAY!

If you would like to receive first-hand news on upcoming workshops and trainings, as well as the latest information on the MPR, sign up as a PPP member now! To sign up, simply visit <http://www.packaging-partnership.org.sg/PPP-membership-application-form> or scan the QR code below. Membership is free! Please email the Secretariat at secretariat@packaging-partnership.org.sg or call 6826 3042 for more information. ■



1. <https://www.nea.gov.sg/docs/default-source/resource/3r-guidebook-for-hotels.pdf>
2. Adapted from the Food Waste Management Hierarchy (<https://www.nea.gov.sg/our-services/waste-management/3r-programmes-and-resources/food-waste-management>)