



# Zero Waste by 2050

## 1. IDENTIFY THE CONTEXT

**75%** OF WASTE created in Evanston is sent to landfills.

**725lbs.** OF WASTE per person per year is created in Evanston.

## 3. EXPERIENCE THE SYSTEM



### MINING & TRANSPORTING RAW MATERIALS

Raw materials like wood, metals, and oil are needed to make the items we buy and use, which require a lot of energy and resources to mine. As we make more and more items, air, soil, and water pollution increase and ecosystems become damaged.



### DESIGN & MANUFACTURING

A lot of items bought in Evanston are designed for convenience and with no thought about what happens to the item or its packaging after it is used.



### DISTRIBUTION & PURCHASE

Once an item has been manufactured, it is then ready for you to buy it at a store or online. Disposable items may be cheap, but have a negative and expensive impact on the environment. Reusable and durable items may be expensive, and therefore, harder for people to buy.



### END-OF-USE COLLECTION & MANAGEMENT

Once we are done with items because they have been used or no longer have value to us, we dispose of them. It can be hard to know how an item should be correctly disposed of and sometimes, composting, recycling, and other collection programs like medical waste collection are not available to everyone so a lot of items get sent to the landfill.



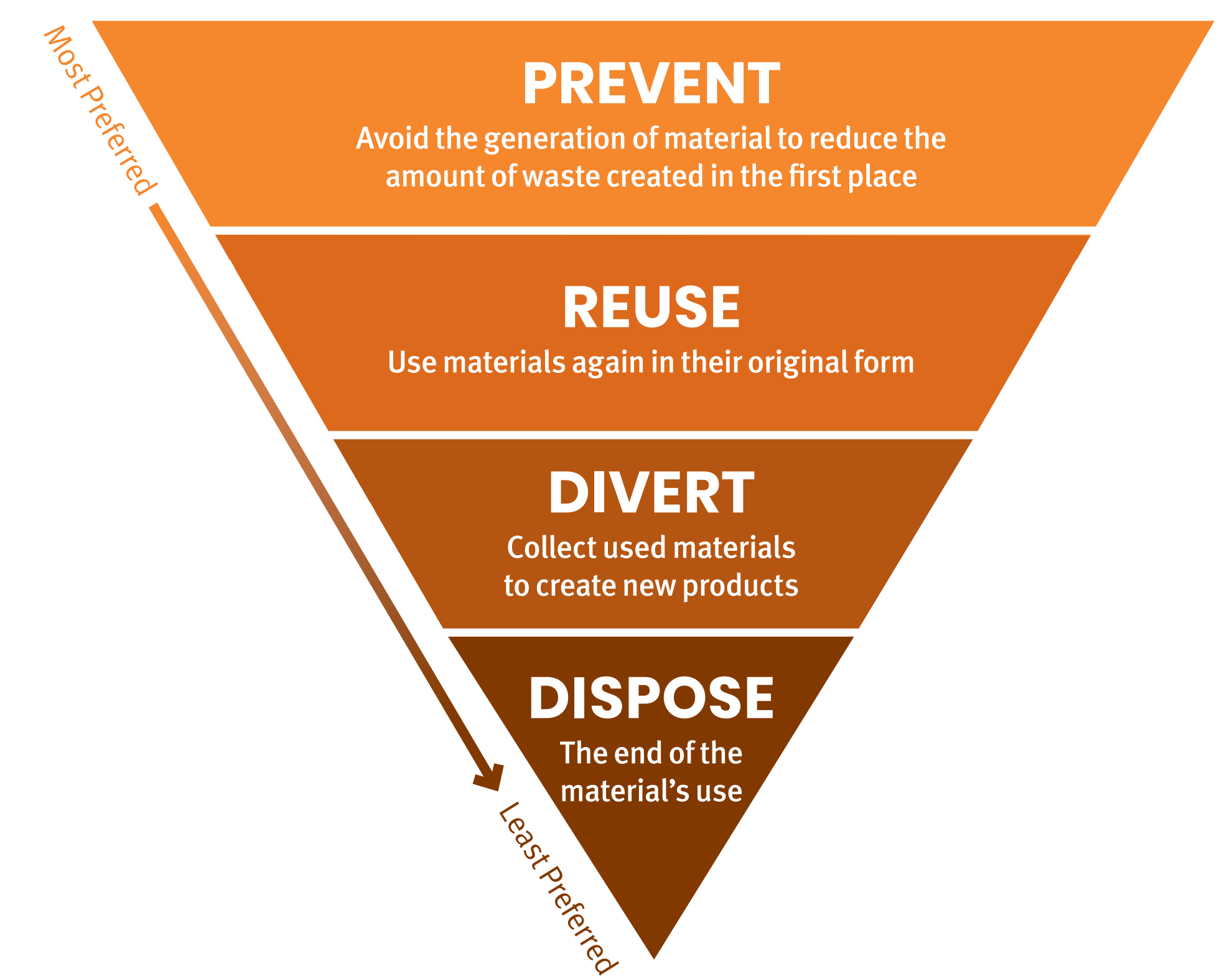
### USE

When we buy items, our relationship with our purchase is determined by the design. Items like clothes, appliances, and electronics are only used for a short time before they are no longer valued or are broken. Throwing them out can lead to litter and be expensive to clean up.

## 2. UNDERSTAND THE TOOLS

### WASTE HIERARCHY

A guide to help people think about the most effective ways to reduce overall waste. The top of the hierarchy has the most preferred strategies that reduce the most amount of waste and the bottom has the least preferred strategies.



### COMPOSTING

The breaking down of organic materials like food scraps and food soiled paper into a fertilizer that can be used to grow new plants. Composting can take many forms—you can compost in your backyard or have your compost collected to be processed at a commercial facility.

### END-OF-USE

When a person is done with an item and no longer has a use for it, they then have to make a decision about how to dispose of the item.

### WASTE REDUCTION

Avoiding the creation of waste by decreasing the amount of material that is manufactured and purchased.

### WASTE DIVERSION

Material that is composted, recycled, or given a longer life instead of being sent to the landfill. For example, Evanston's waste diversion rate is the amount of material that is recycled and composted divided by all of the waste generated in Evanston.

### ZERO WASTE

A cyclical system in which products are designed for reuse, creating no waste. Evanston's goal of Zero Waste by 2050 is calculated based on the percentage of material diverted from a landfill. When that percent reaches 100%, then Evanston will have achieved Zero Waste.

## 4. TAKE ACTION