

# Applying The Waste Hierarchy in the Supply Chain

Jason Mitchell – Waste Manager Newcastle Hospitals

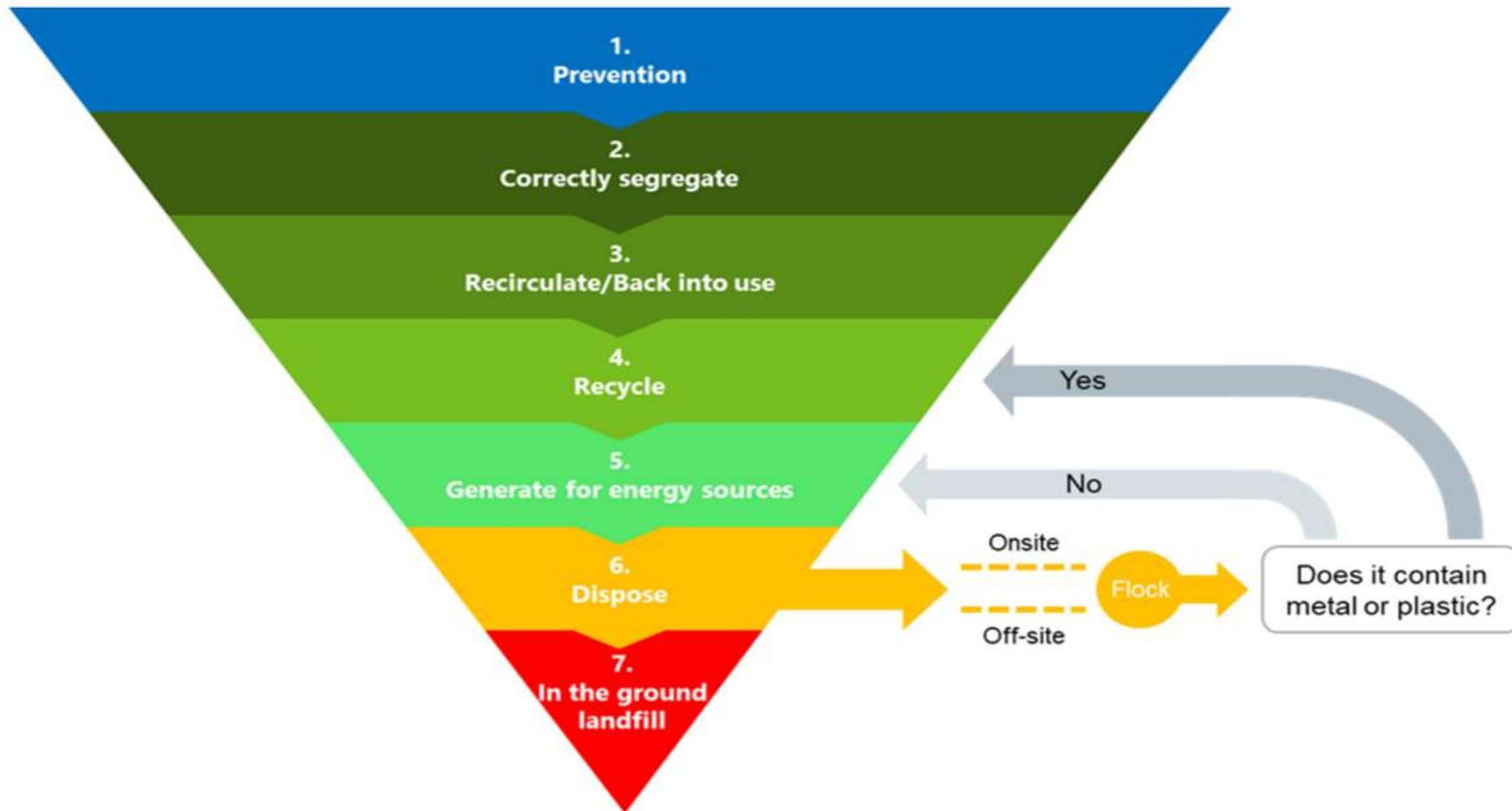
North East Public Sector Sustainable & Social Value Supplier Event

24<sup>th</sup> March 2026

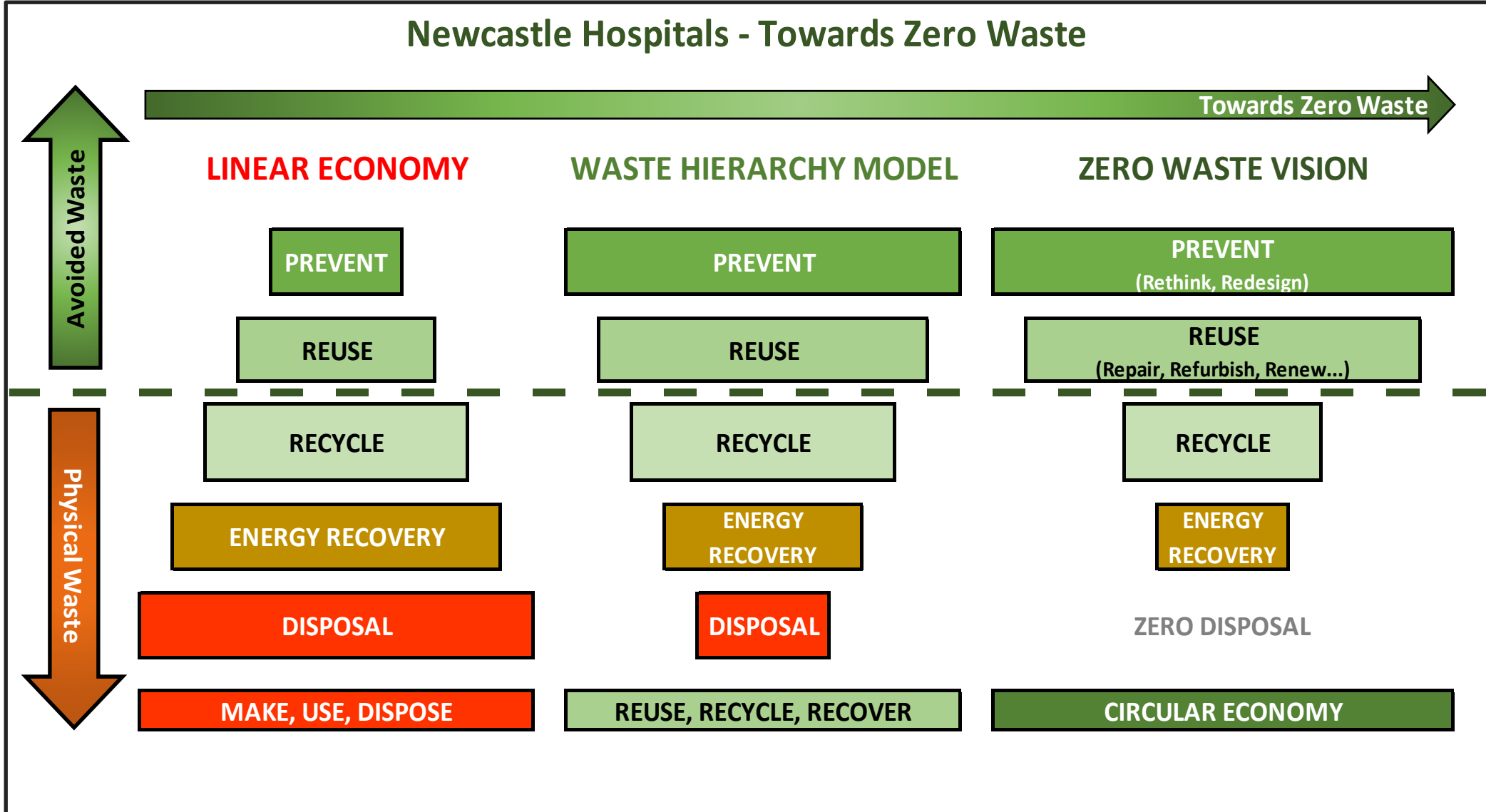
# THE WASTE HIERARCHY



# WASTE HIERARCHY AND NHS 2030 TARGETS



## Newcastle Hospitals - Towards Zero Waste



# NEWCASTLE HOSPITAL'S WASTE CHALLENGE!

NEWCASTLE HOSPITALS' WASTE HIERARCHY OUTCOMES - 2024 / 25

PREVENT ?

REUSE ?

RECYCLE 27%

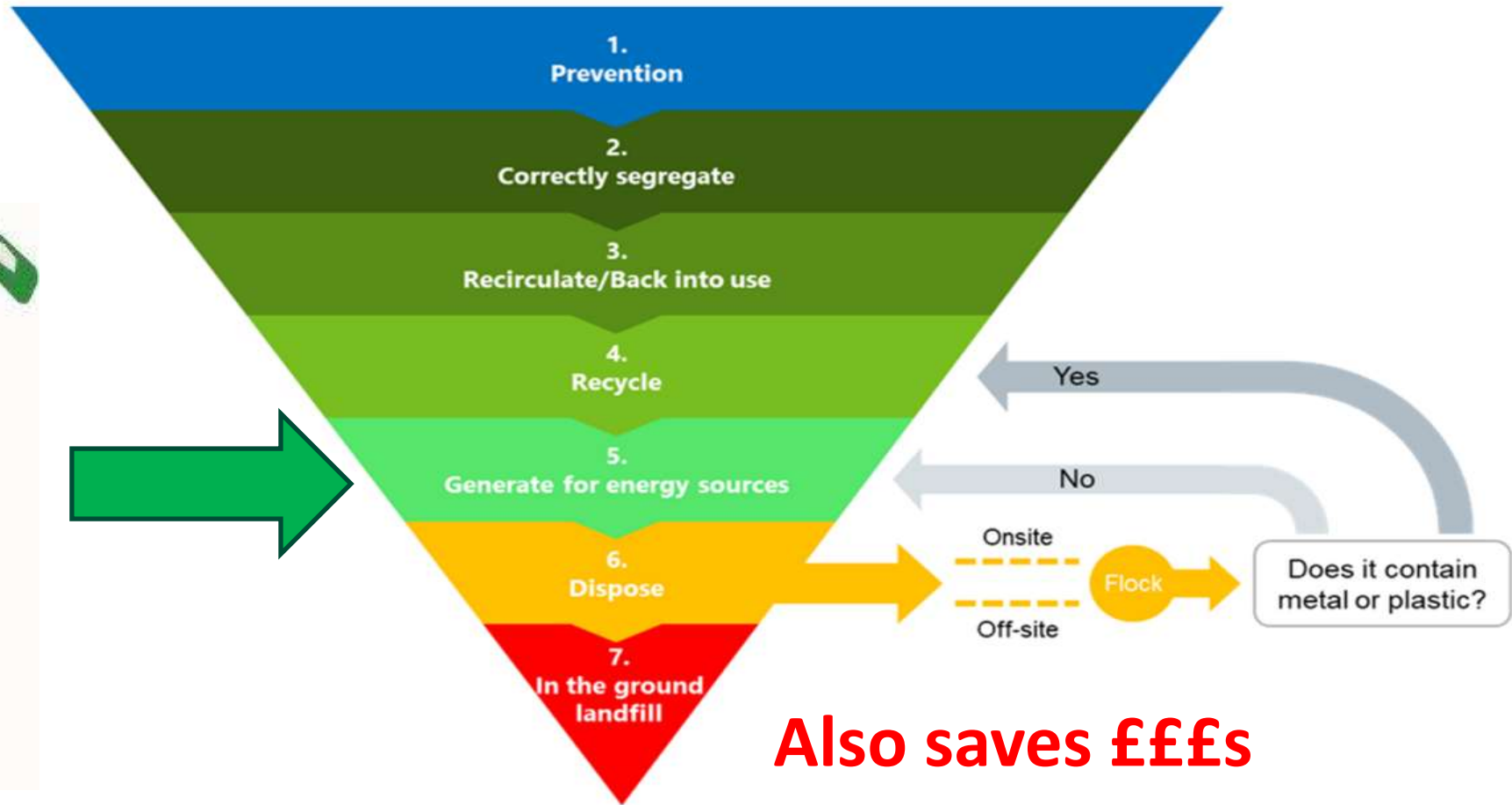
ENERGY RECOVERY 71%

DISPOSAL = < 2%

# MEDICINAL WASTE



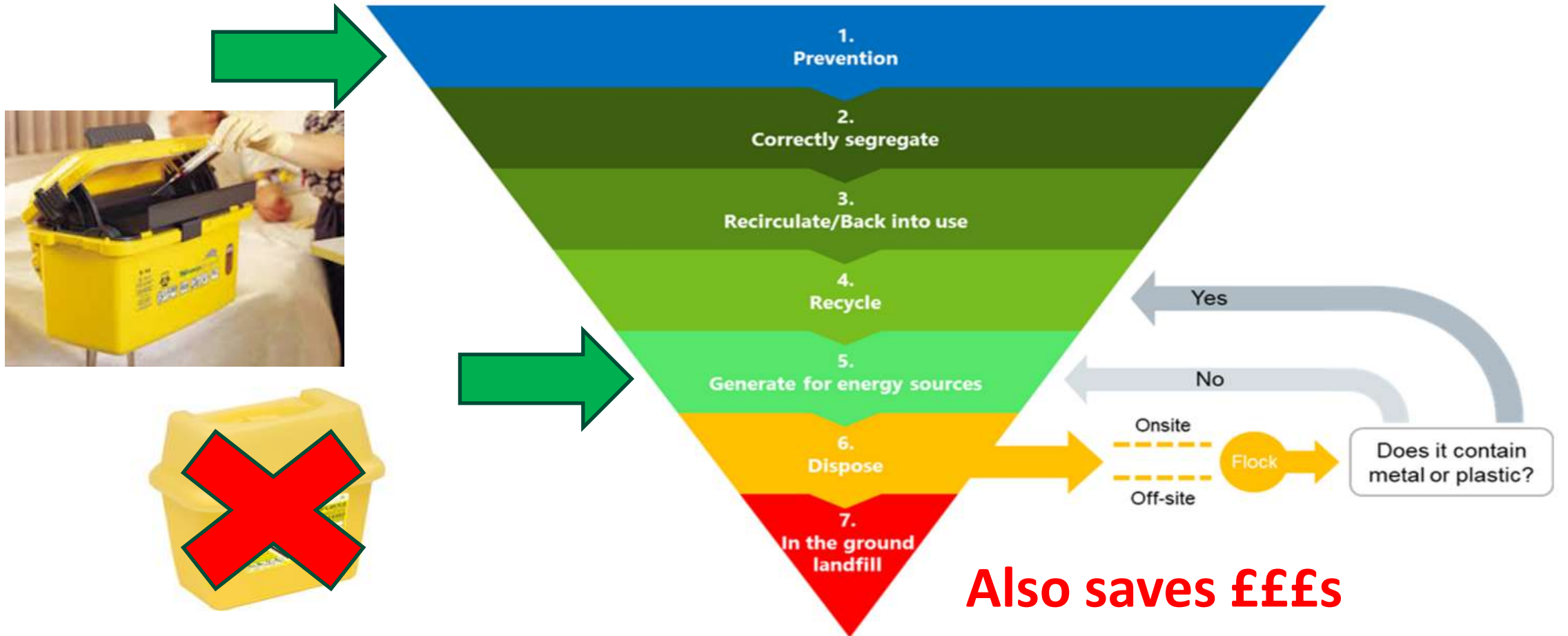
# WASTE HIERARCHY IMPACT



# REUSABLE SHARPS WASTE SYSTEMS



# WASTE HIERARCHY IMPACT

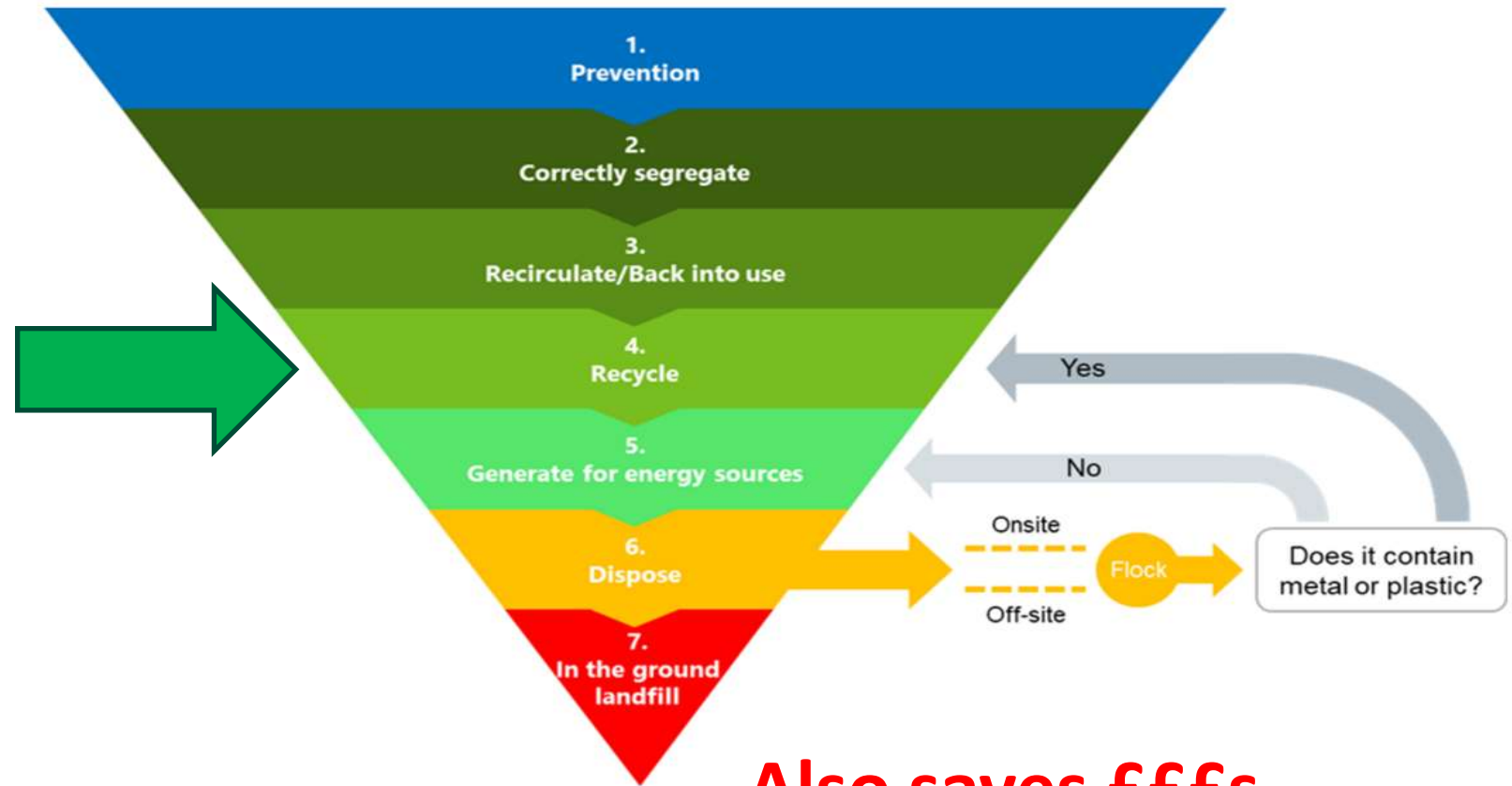


# SINGLE-USE METAL INSTRUMENT RECYCLING

- Replaces grey single-use metal instrument receptacles.  
(No sharps)
- Increased range of items that can be captured:
  - Guide wires (previously excluded)
  - Wide range of single use metal instruments
- Highly visible green receptacles
- 64L (Theatres) 14L Ward utility rooms)
- Metal is autoclaved (decontaminated + disinfected) then recycled.



# WASTE HIERARCHY IMPACT

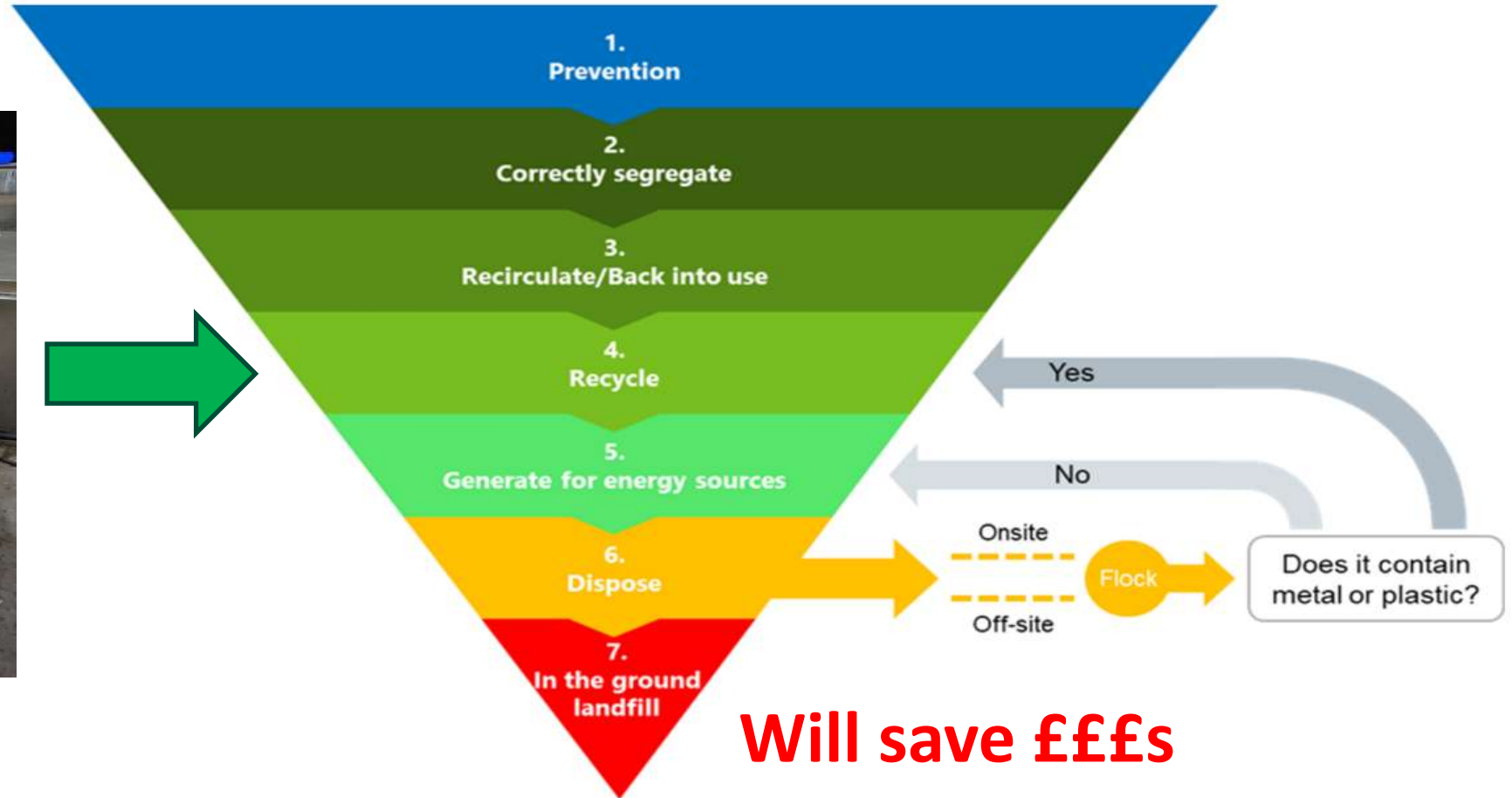


**Also saves £££**

# POLYMER EXTRACTION



# WASTE HIERARCHY IMPACT

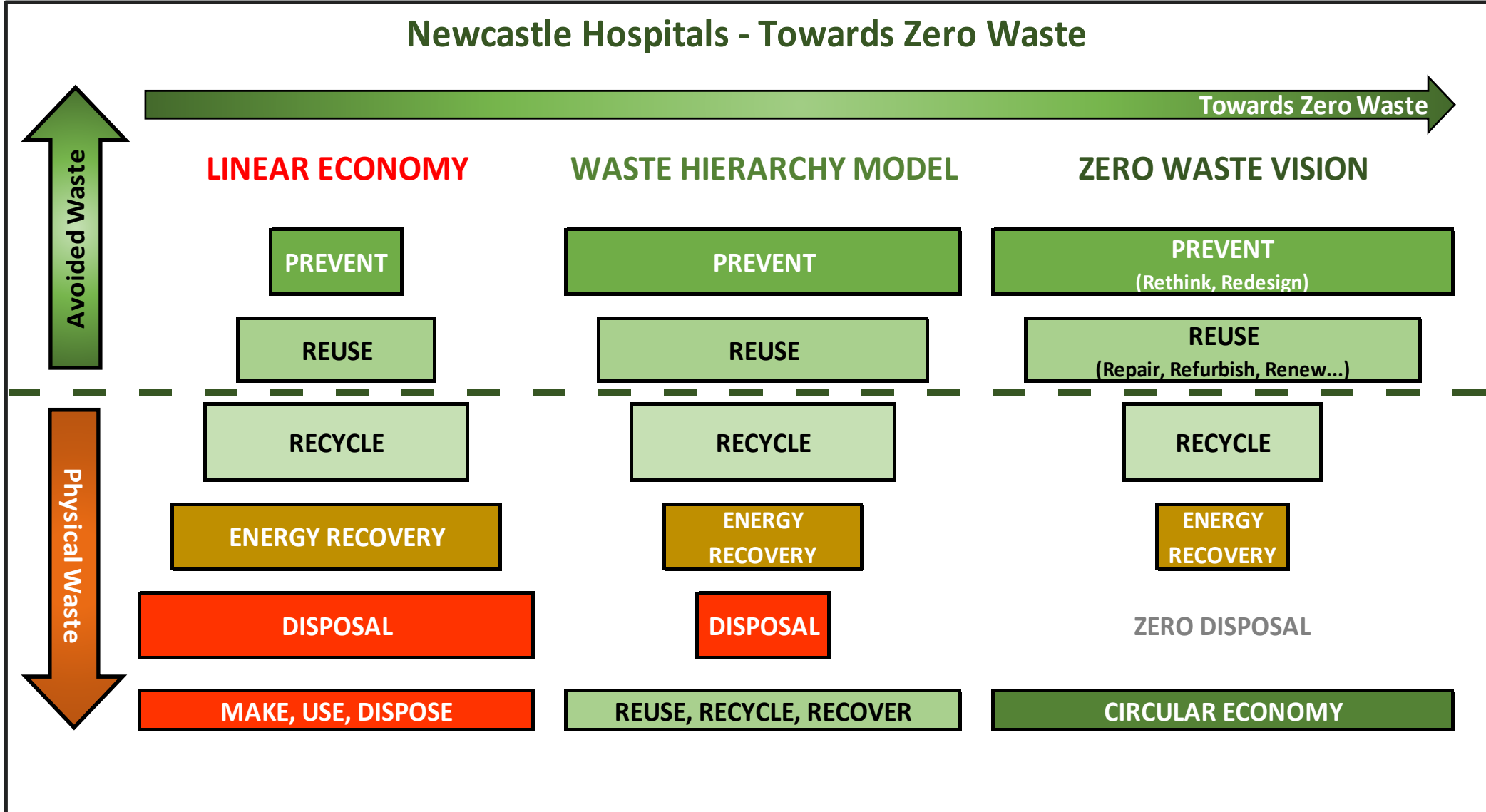


## CONFIDENTIAL WASTE

- Patient/staff identifiable information
- Business sensitive information
- Disposal options:
  - Department shredder with clear plastic bag
  - White paper sack (RVI/FH); taped closed
  - Hessian-style sacks (community sites); cable-tie closed
- Disposal: On-site shred (RVI/FH) and **recycled into new product**
- **This option is expensive £££**
- **Is it confidential information?**



## Newcastle Hospitals - Towards Zero Waste



## BUY LESS, BUY BETTER

We want to **buy less, and buy better:**

- **Buy less:** Eliminating, reducing and reusing resources where we can.
- **Buy better:** Where procurement is required, Social Value and Net Zero is embedded into our Procurement Strategy, Policy and Tender processes.
- **Also Means: Resource Efficiency and Waste Prevention**

# GOODS-IN!



# THEATRES



## 'BADS'-OUT!



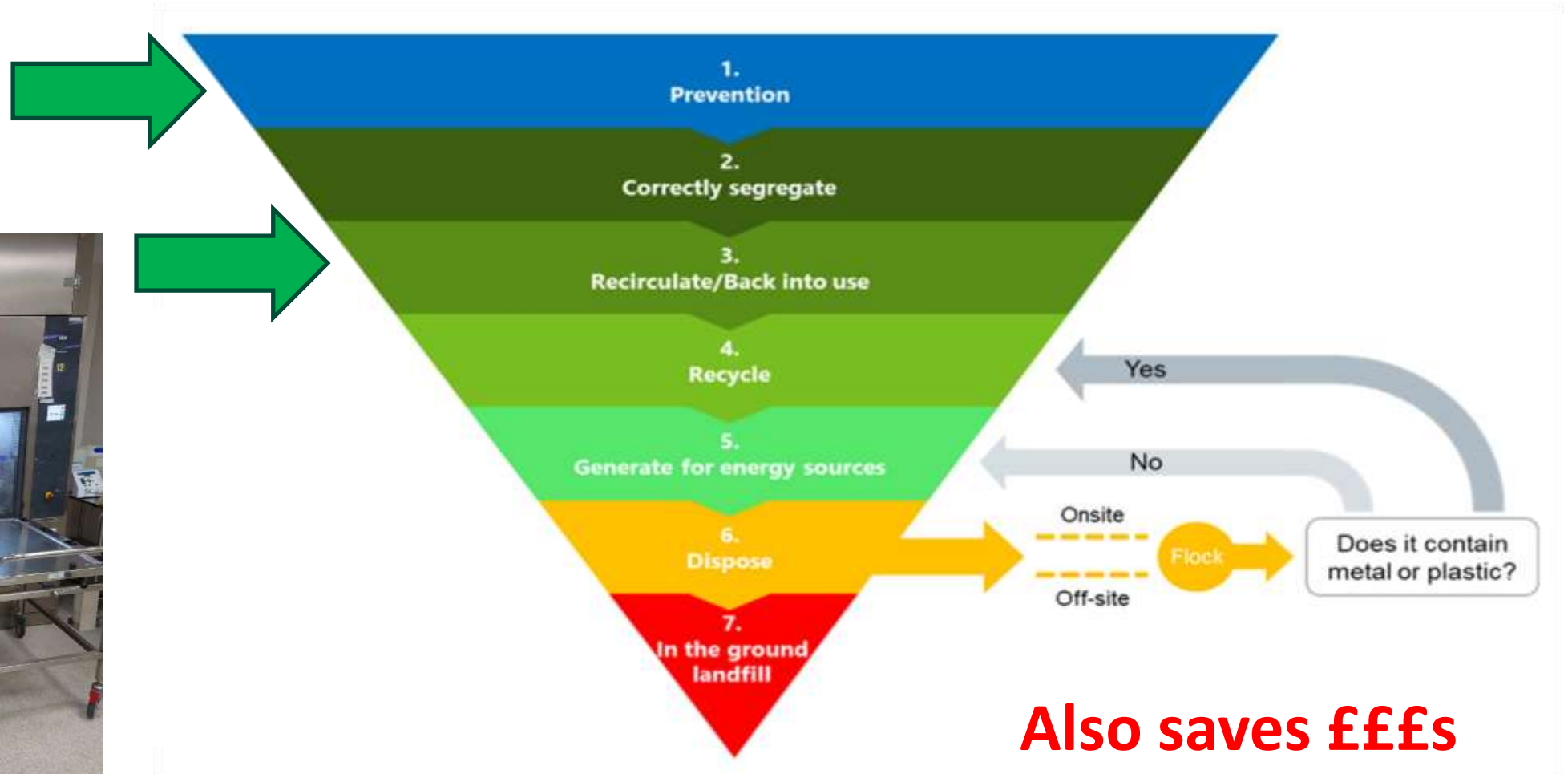
**A Very Linear  
Economy**



# STERILE SERVICES



# WASTE HIERARCHY IMPACT

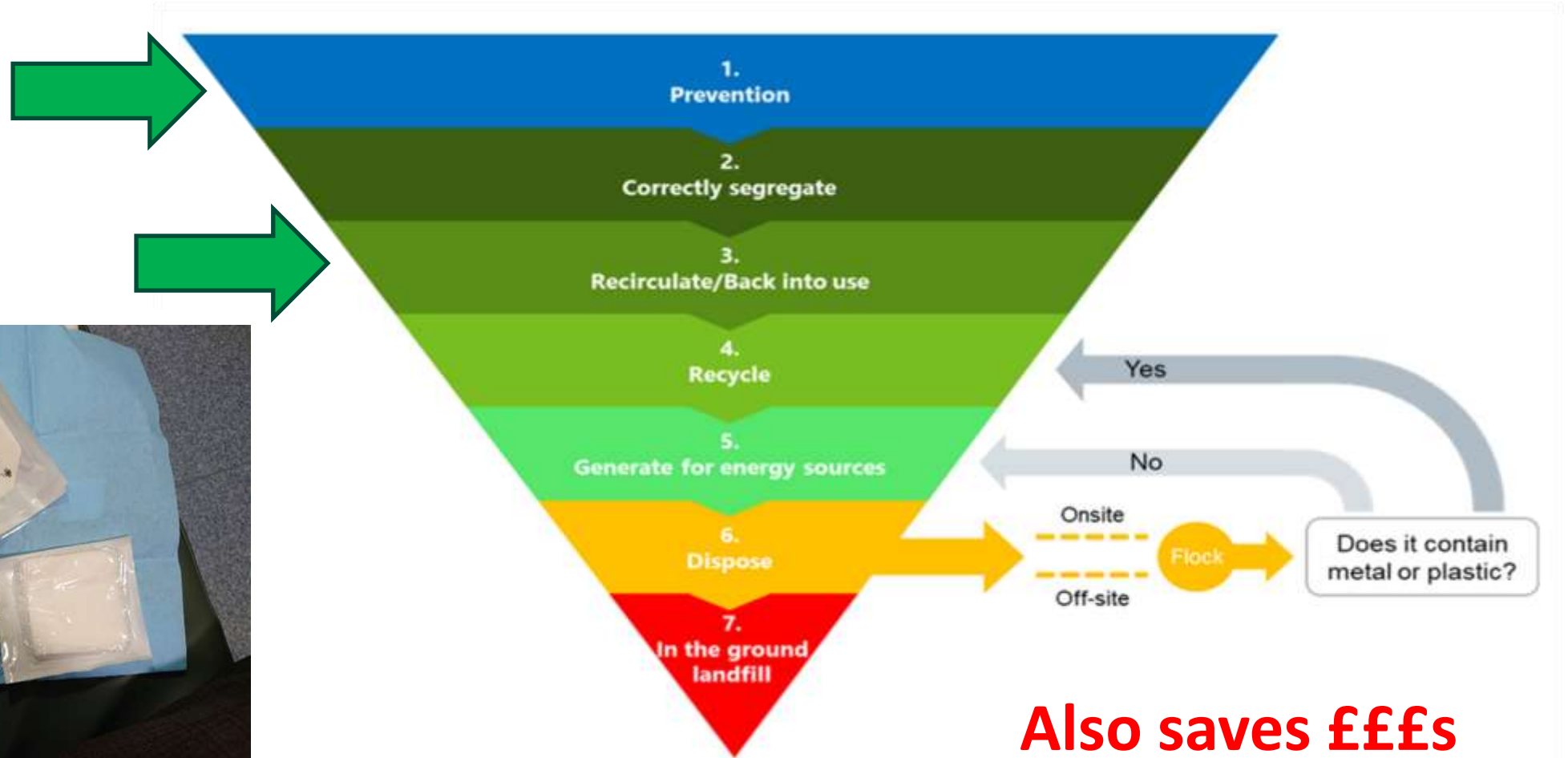


**Also saves £££s**

# WARDS & DEPTS – PROCEDURE PACKS



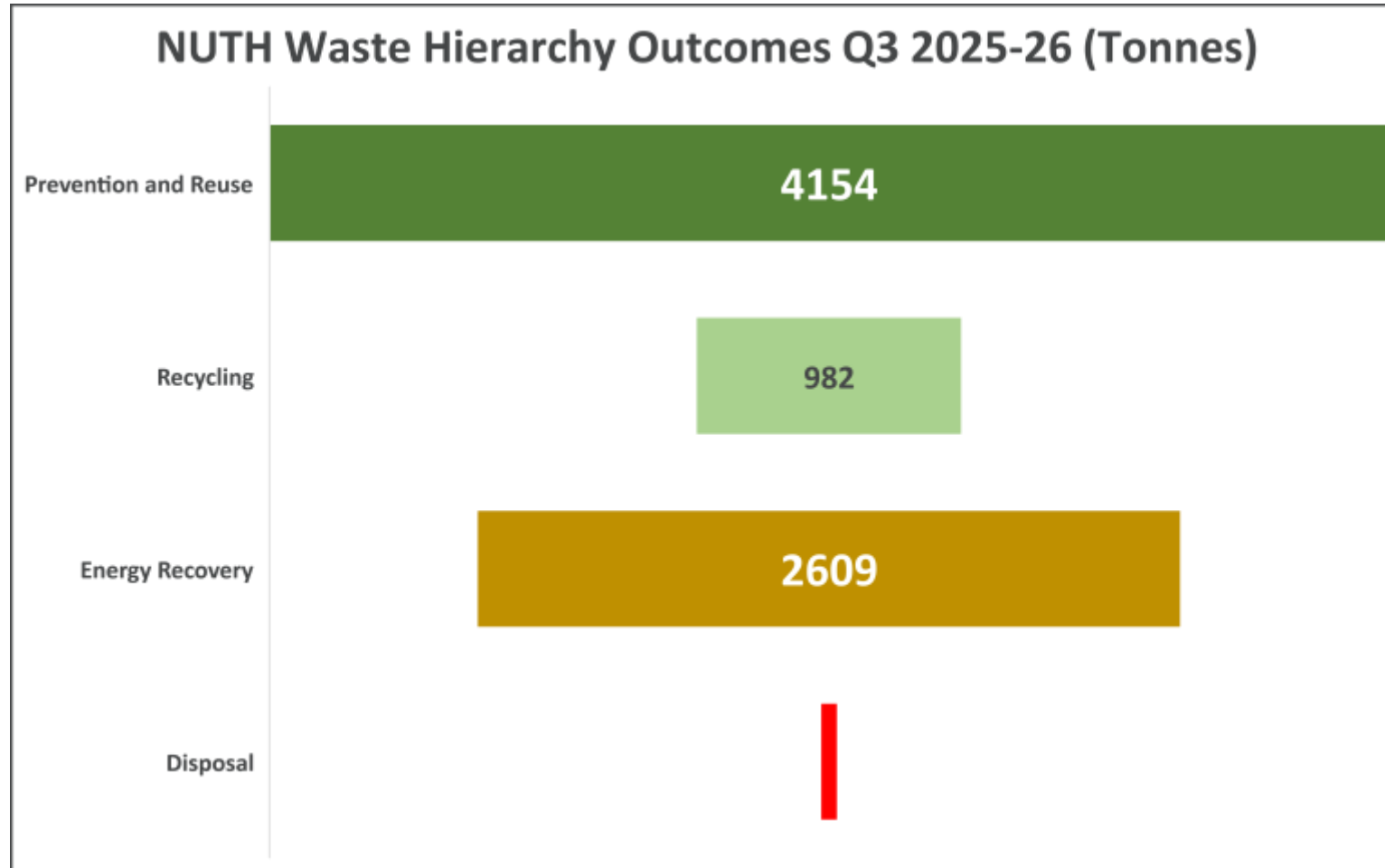
# WASTE HIERARCHY IMPACT



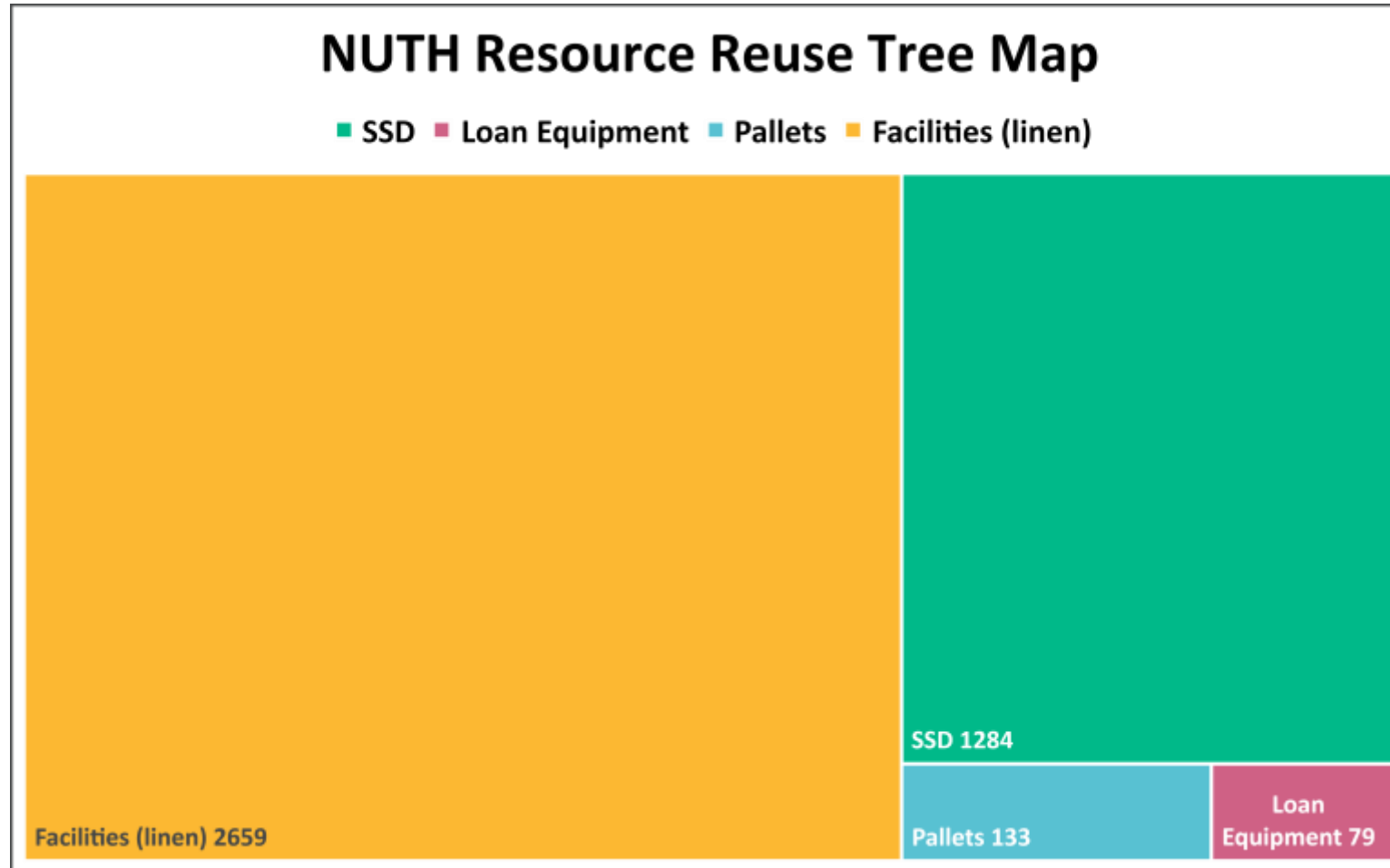
**Also saves £££s**



# MEASURING PREVENTION AND RE-USE

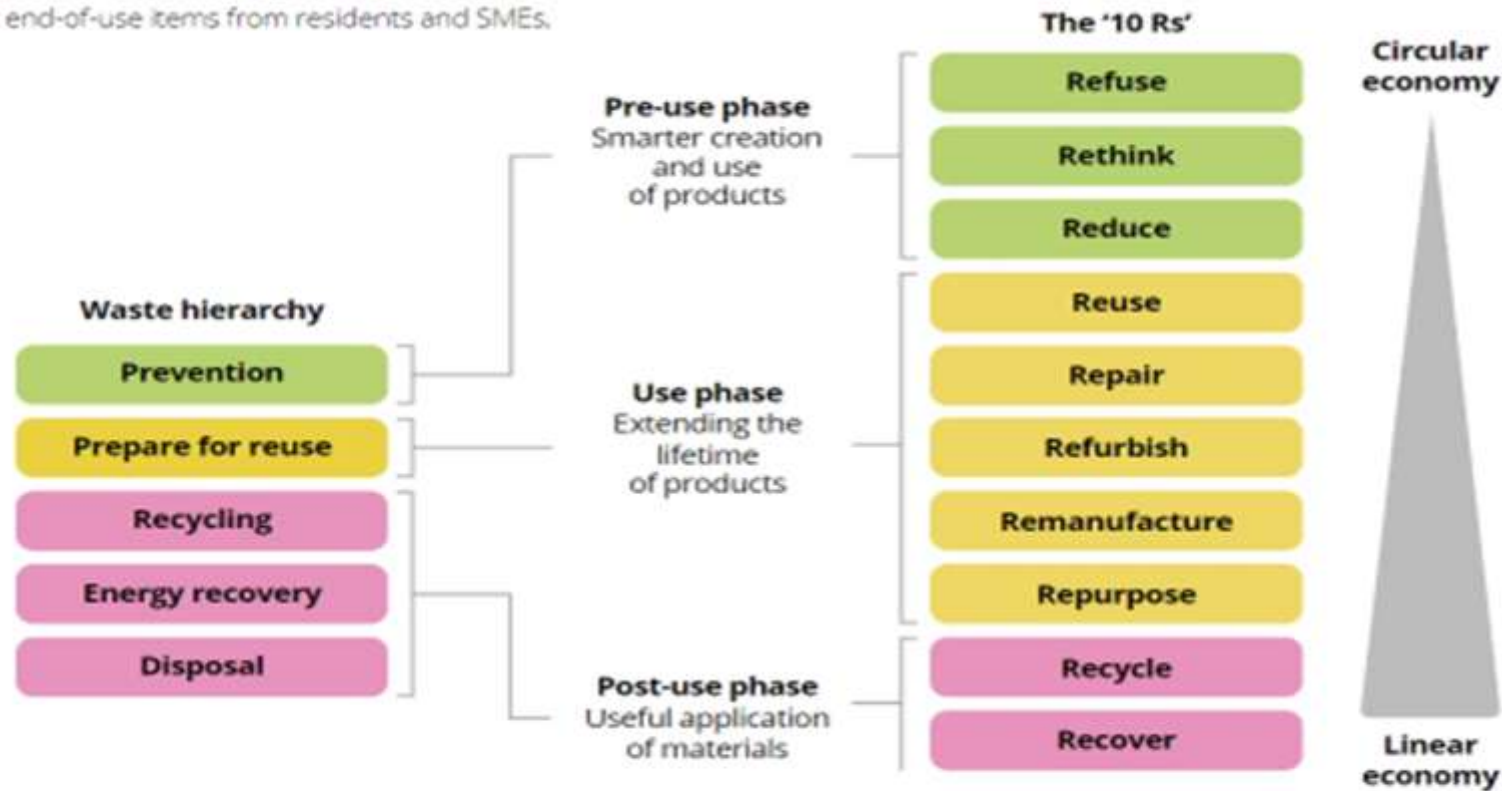


# MEASURING PREVENTION AND RE-USE



# WASTE & RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN THE NHS

collect end-of-use items from residents and SMEs.



The traditional waste hierarchy (left) and (right) Dr Greenfield's material-capture hierarchy

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Senior management buy-in and support
- Procurement capacity
- Resilience in the Supply Chain
- Maintaining IPC standards
- Sterile Services Department capacity
- Time, resource,
- Knowledge gaps
- Appetite/capacity for collaborative working

# THE DAY JOB!



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