



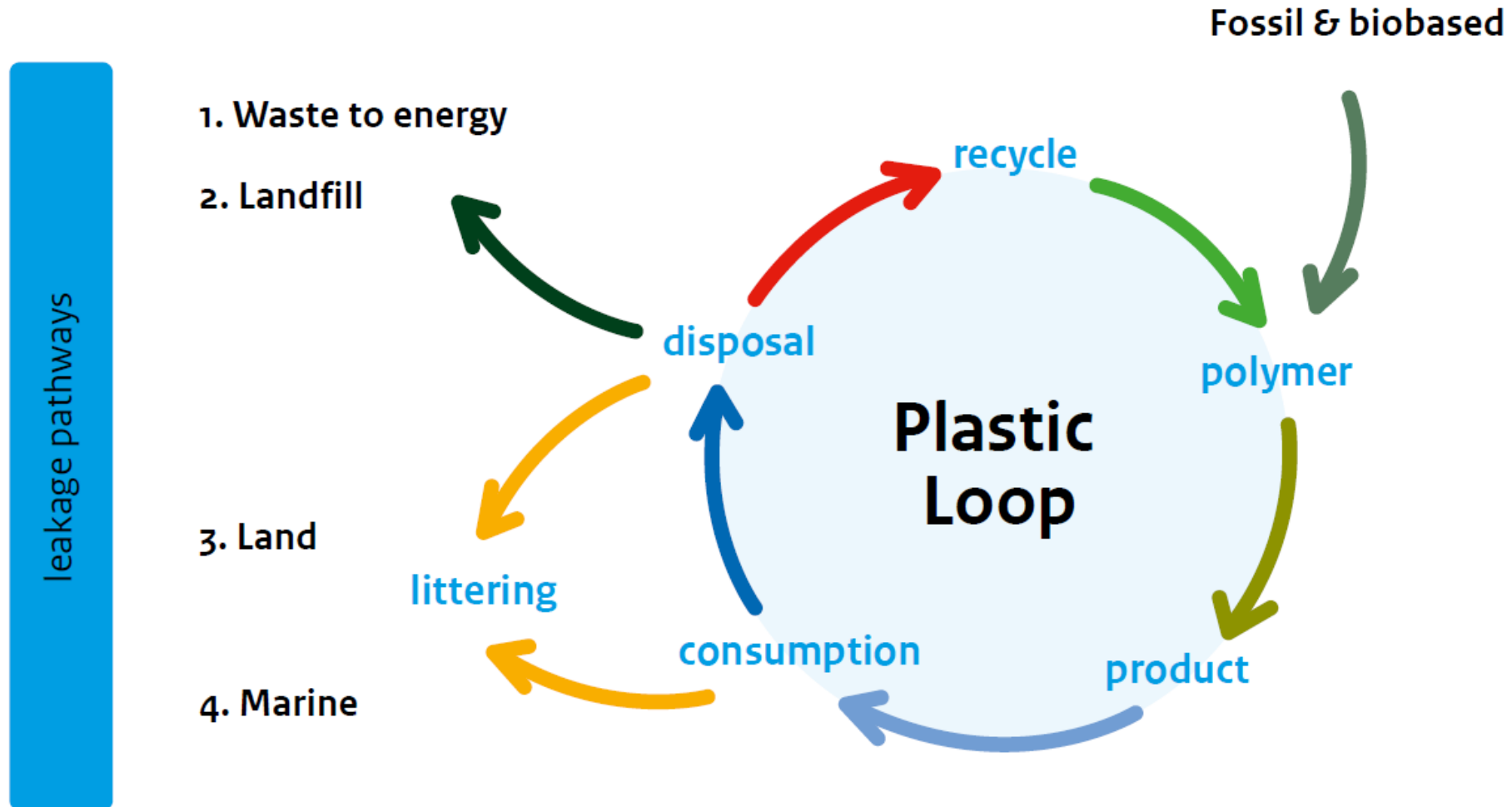
Rijkswaterstaat
*Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management*

Sustainable Public Procurement of Plastics

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Simplified plastics loop





Procurement & plastics

- Plastics packaging is 'procured' directly and indirectly (wrapping primary goods and as part of services)
- Quantifying plastics in public procurement is immensely difficult even where packaging is procured directly (e.g. for catering and food services)

Main focus is therefore:



avoid where possible

e.g. avoid plastic in packaging where feasible, or reduce



influence

types of plastics being procured (i.e. recyclable)



encourage

markets for recycled plastics – closing the plastics loop



ensure

that plastics packaging is either re-use or recycled to avoid 'leakage'

SPP plastics & procurement guidance

Key challenges for procurers:

- Lack of transparency on packaging in procurement
- Complexity of packaging
- Lack of transparency on plastics in packaging
- Unintended consequences of changing actions (substitution, resilience, recyclability)
- Different waste management solutions

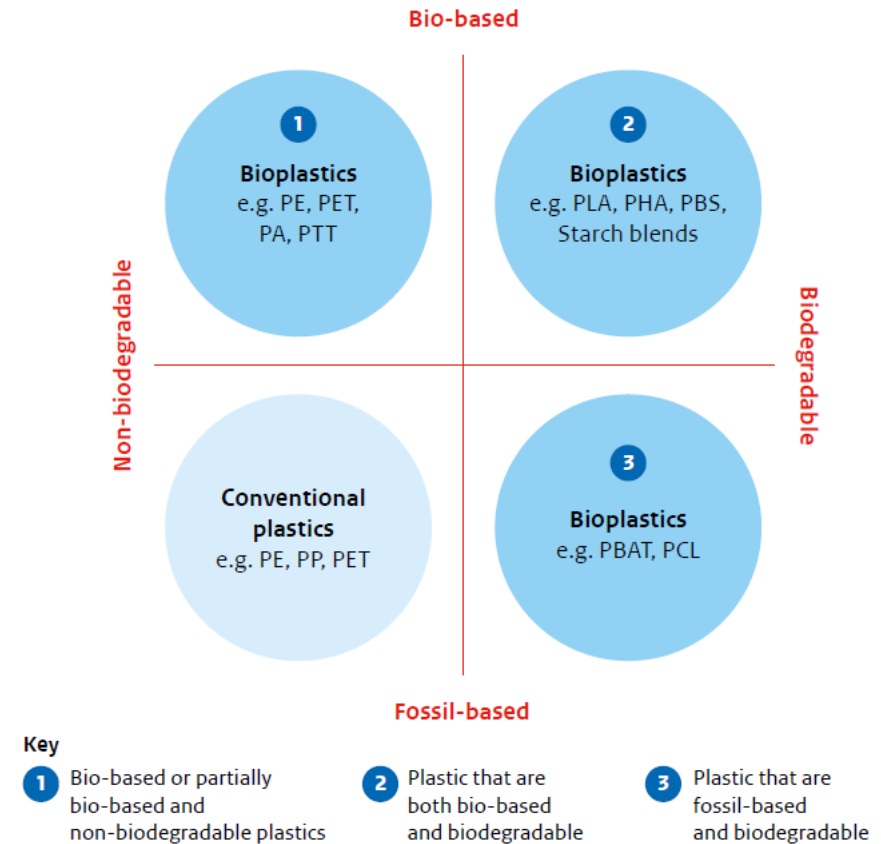
Simple guidance:

- Approach & targeting priority areas for action
- Creating a proportionate set of actions across the procurement cycle Asking the right questions
- Setting the requirements & criteria for suppliers



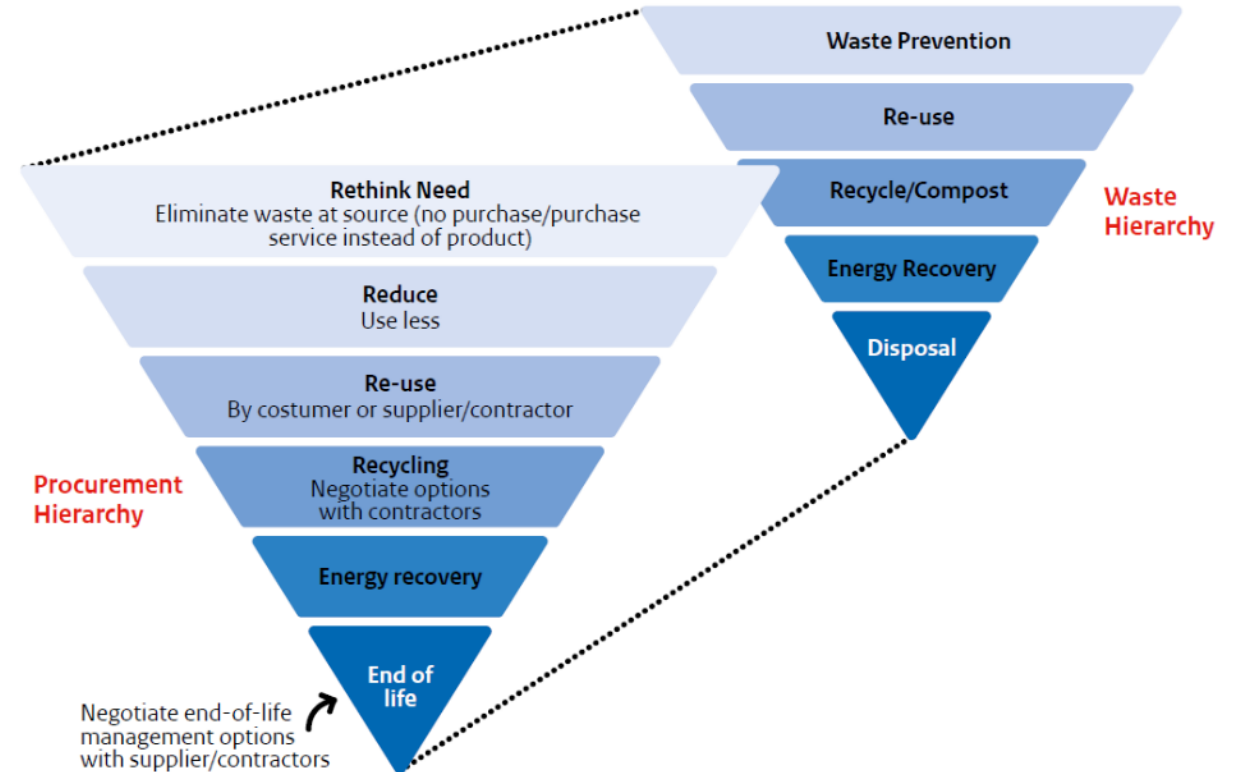
Understanding the plastics lifecycle

- What types of plastics are used?
- Where do plastics commonly arise?
- How does the local waste management infrastructure deal with plastics we procure?
- What are the alternatives the supply chain can offer?



Pre-tender actions

- Eliminate – use of problematic and unnecessary plastic in all purchases
- Reduce - overall consumption and associated plastics
- Reuse – switch from single use to reuse models where possible



Where do plastics commonly occur in procurement?

Priority categories:



1. Office equipment, accessories & supplies
2. Computer equipment, accessories & supplies
3. Medical equipment, accessories and supplies
4. Food and beverage products & catering consumables
5. Domestic appliances (large and small items)
6. Cleaning equipment and supplies
7. Building & construction products, components and supplies – including electronic components, electrical systems and lighting
8. Building and facility management and maintenance services
9. Textiles and apparel (e.g. workwear & linens)
10. Furniture (e.g. accommodation, office catering and catering)
11. Transportation, storage, logistics & mail services
12. Telecommunications equipment, accessories & supplies
13. Printing, photographic and Audio Visual equipment, accessories & supplies

Tender actions

- Market engagement –
 - consult with existing suppliers and the market to determine what can be avoided, substituted etc
- Criteria –
 - set appropriate and proportionate requirements to the subject matter
- Standards and labels –
 - ensure verification of claims



Criteria

Plastic criteria typically comprise the following:

- Packaging;
- Recycled content;
- The marking of plastics over a given size (e.g. 25g) for the purposes of improving recycling; and/or
- Toxicity, e.g. additives in the form of colourants, fillers, plasticisers, stabilisers, and flame retardants.

Where applicable:

The tenderer should state:

- What percentage of the packaging is suitable for reuse;
- What packaging reuse models are available; and/or
- What packaging take-back arrangements can be offered.

When single-use packaging is used, the following requirements should be considered:

- The packaging consists of one polymer or plastic polymers that are separate from each other (not composite or bonded), and other packaging materials.
- The [*plastic*] packaging materials are widely recyclable through the local collection and recycling infrastructure.
- Specific requirements, for example:
 - Plastic packaging should consist only of [*specify, for example PET, PP, HDPE, LDPE or PS*];
 - Plastic packaging [*may / may not*] consist of both biobased and fossil raw materials;
 - Plastic items shall not include [*where applicable list any banned products, materials and formats*].
- A minimum [*specify*] % of recycled content for plastic packaging to help close material loops may also be set or assessed in the context of the award criteria.

Thank you



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