

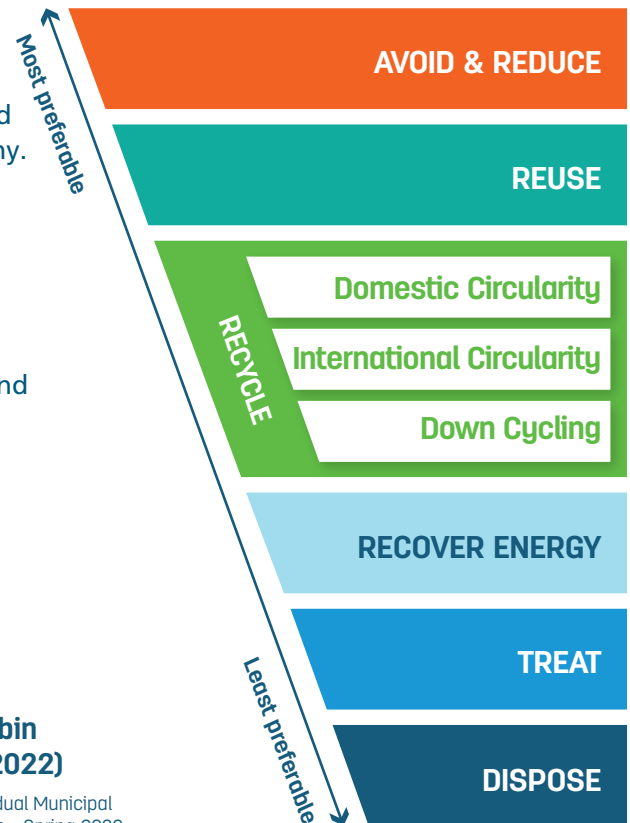
# Residual waste explained

Residual waste is waste that cannot be avoided, reused or recycled, that would otherwise go to landfill.

To better manage resources that end up as waste, we need to find ways to work at higher levels of the waste hierarchy.

Cleanaway invests in all levels of the waste hierarchy for a more sustainable future. Cleanaway operates many waste and recycling services in Victoria and nationally. These services include food and garden organic material, glass, paper, cardboard and plastic. We also invest in education programs and support innovative ideas to avoid, reduce and reuse waste.

The proposed Melbourne Energy and Resource Centre (MERC) facility aims to better manage resources by recovering both energy and valuable resources from residual waste.



## General waste bin in Melbourne (2022)

Source: Melbourne Residual Municipal Solid Waste audit results - Spring 2022



General waste bins will include some food waste, garden waste and recyclables, which will be present in lower proportions over time as recycling rates improve.

The MERC will only accept residual waste, which is the waste from homes, businesses and organisations, where source separation is in place to first remove waste that can be recovered or recycled.

The residual waste typically includes items that cannot be recycled yet such as nappies and sanitary items, tissues, non-recyclable plastics and packaging, worn out clothing and other general household waste.

The MERC will produce energy and recover valuable materials (such as metals and material for construction aggregates) from the residual waste instead of sending it to landfill.



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