



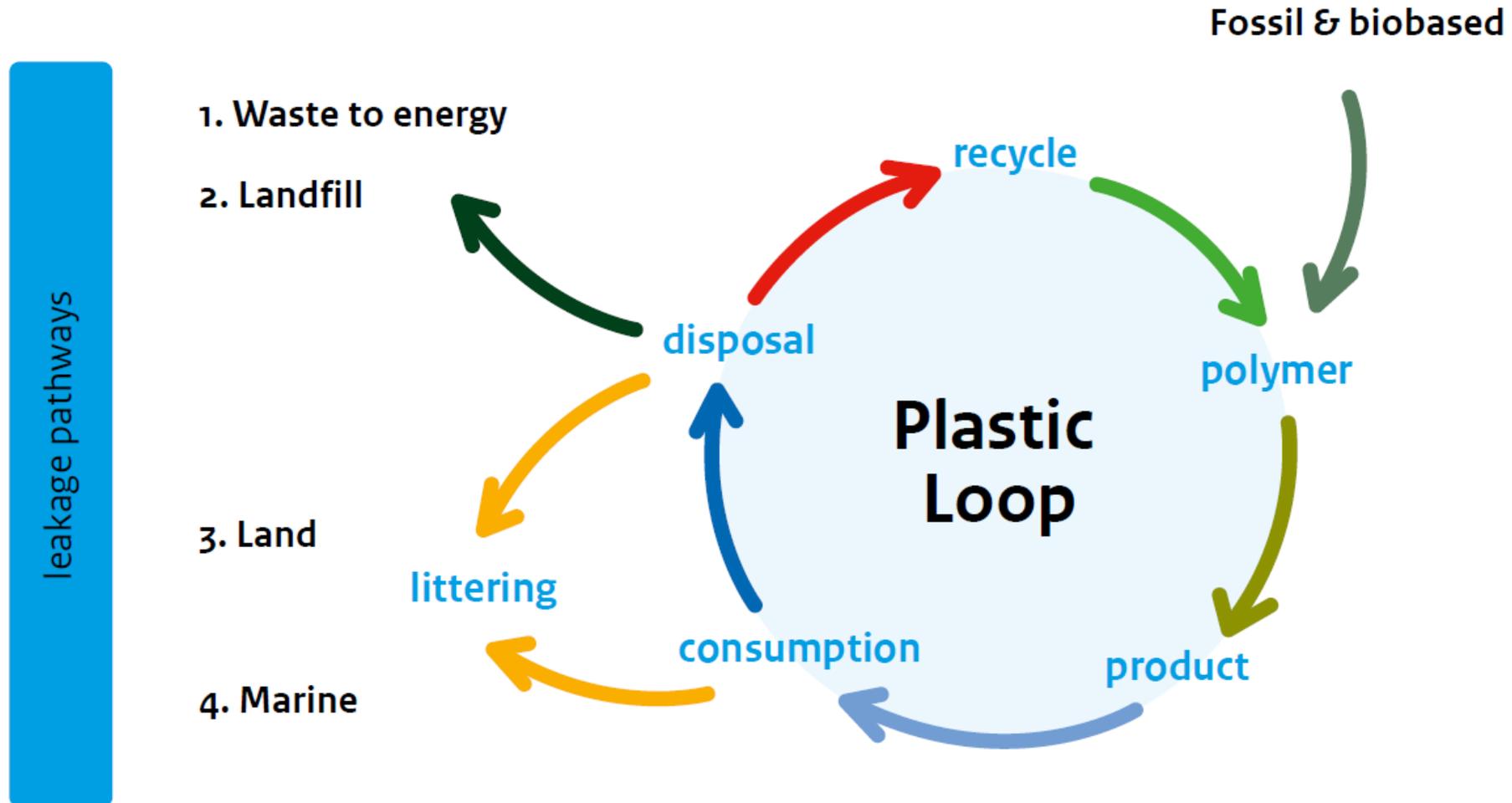
Rijkswaterstaat
*Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management*

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

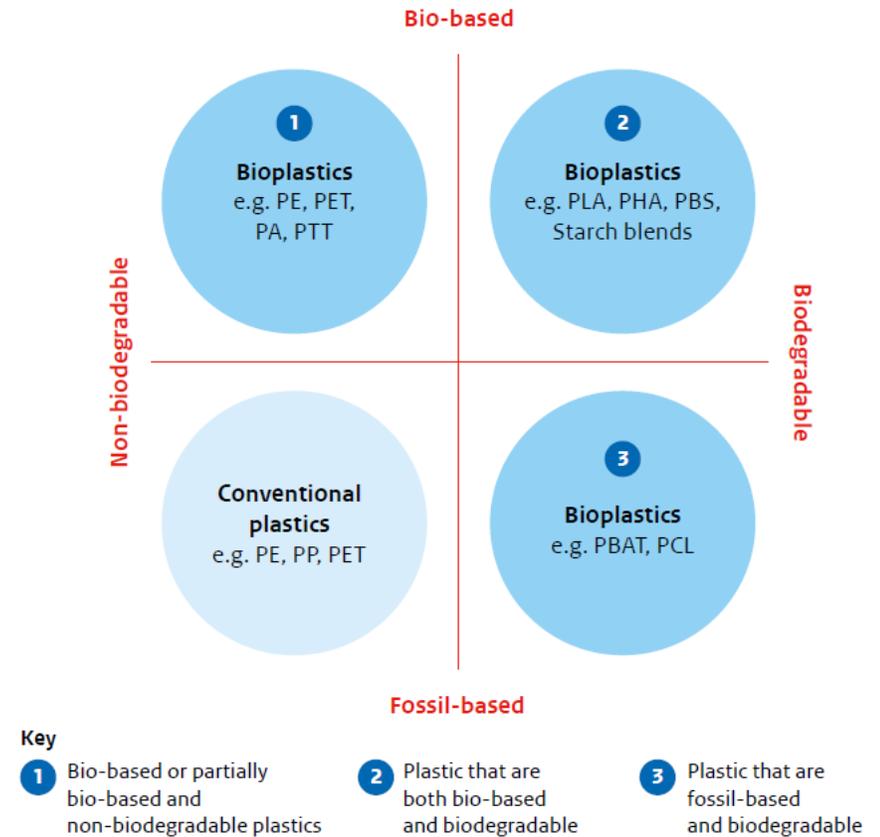
Simple guidance:

- 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



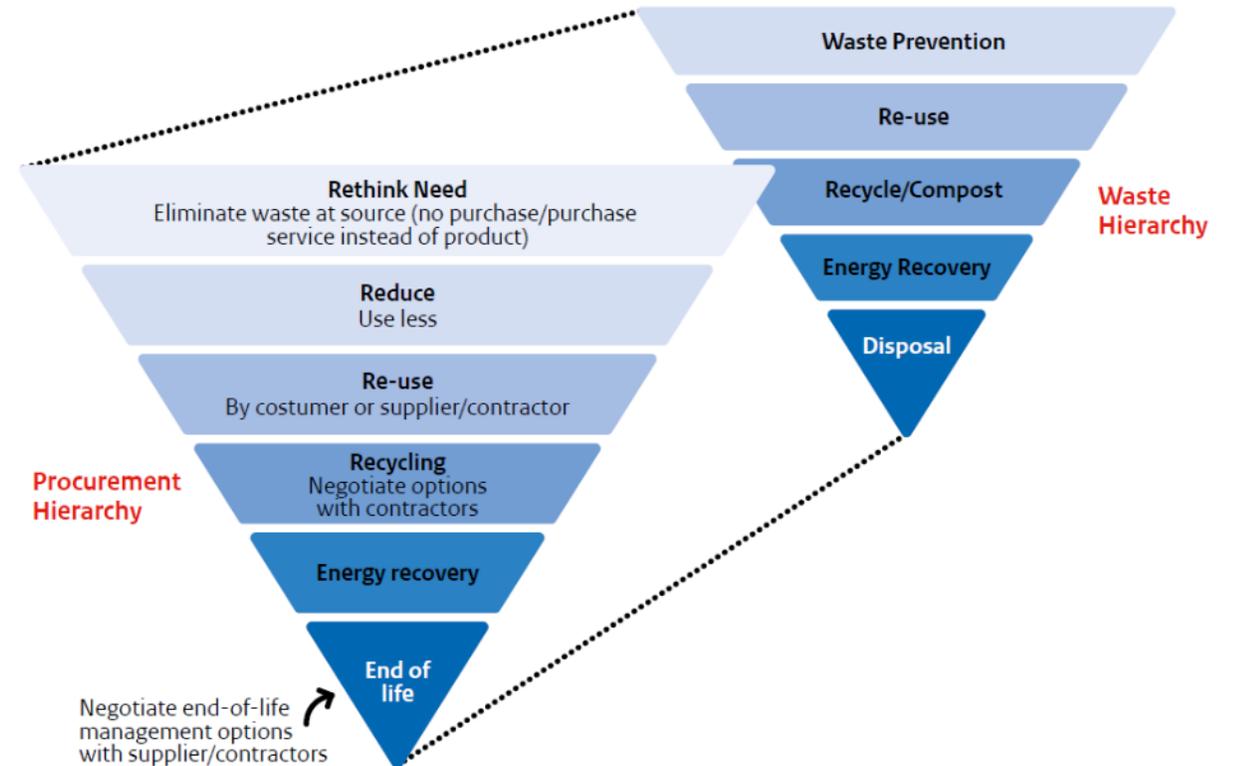
Understanding the plastics lifecycle

- 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:

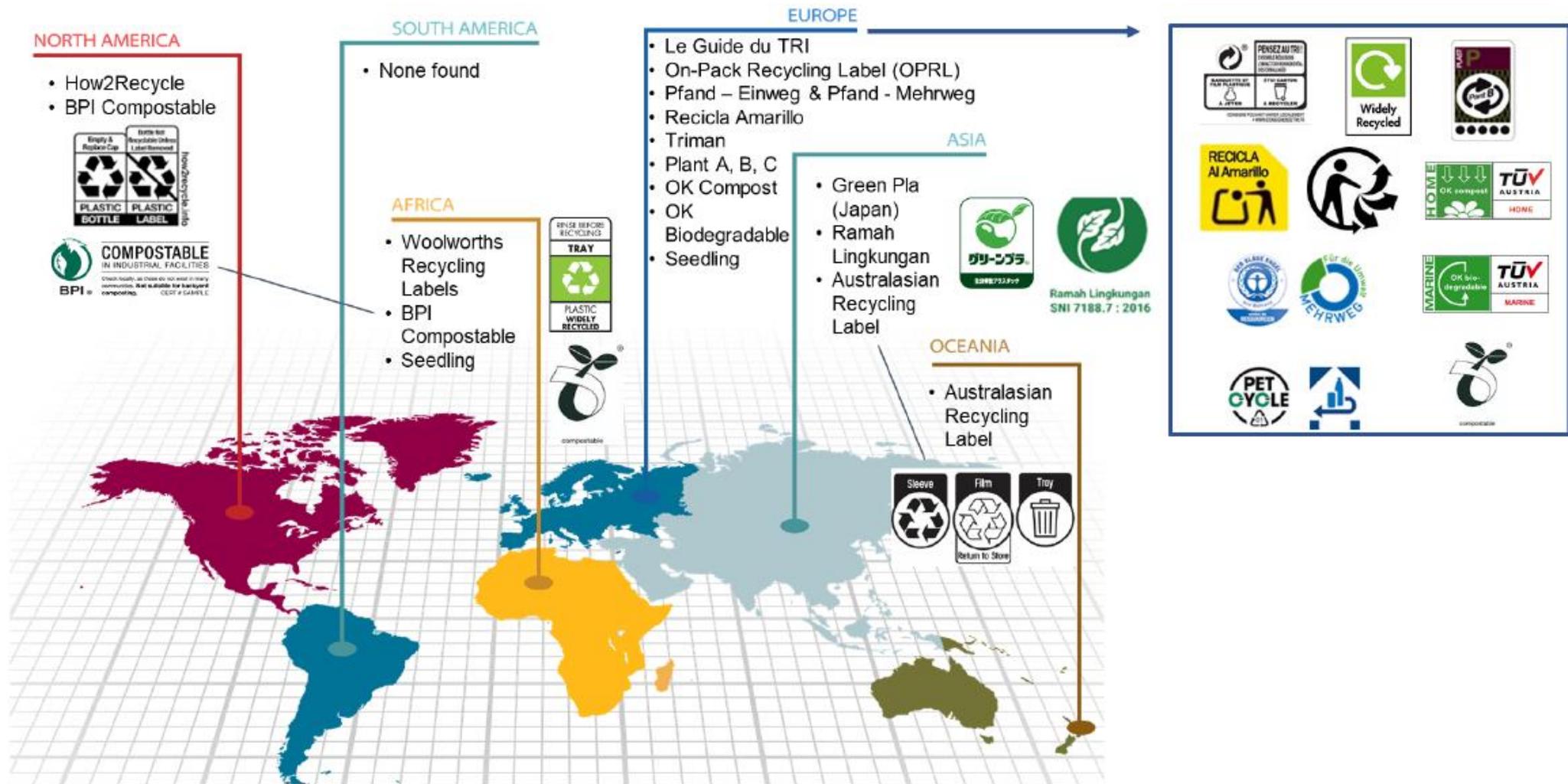
The tenderer should state:

- 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.

Geographic view of labels indicating proper disposal of plastic packaging



Thank you



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