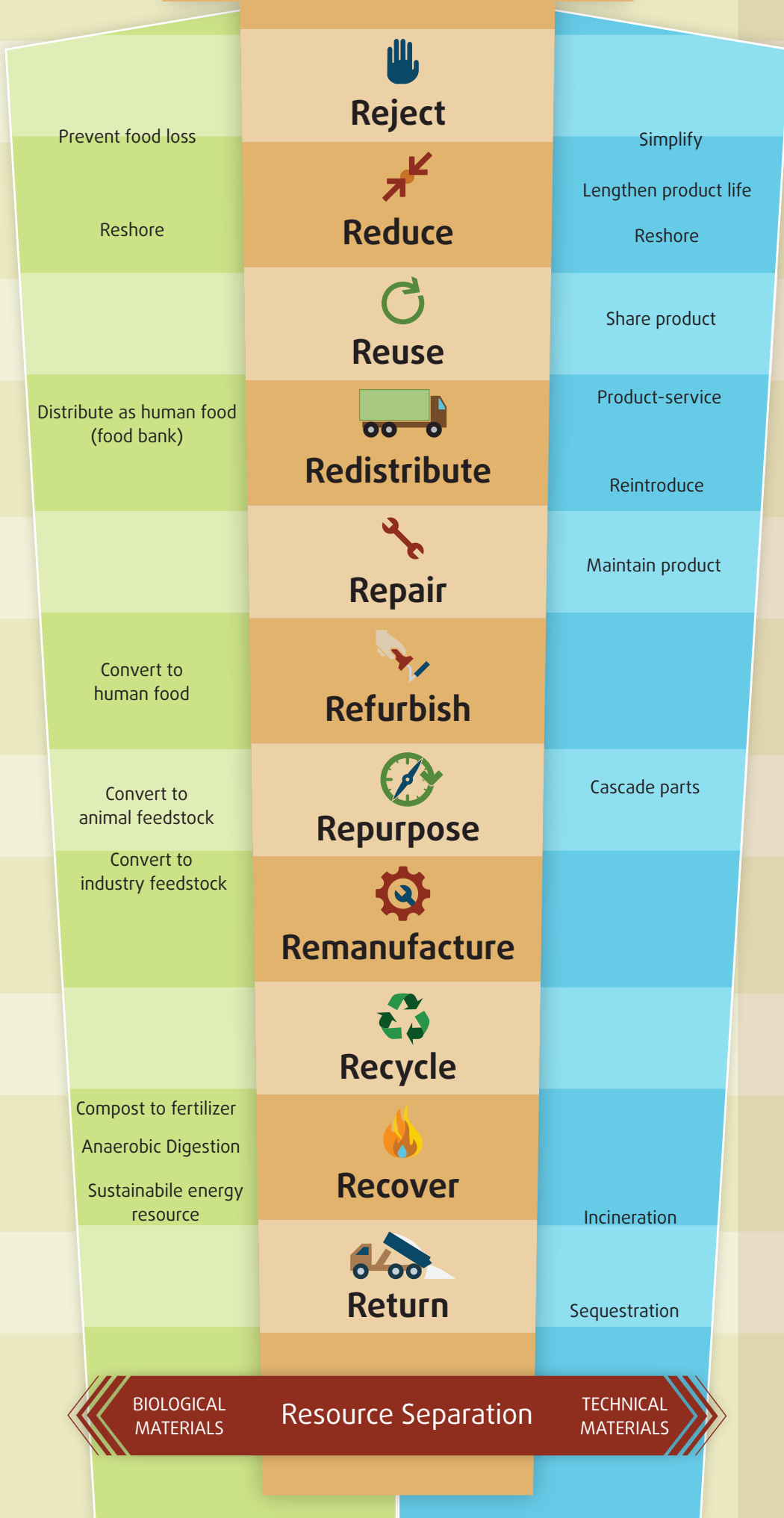


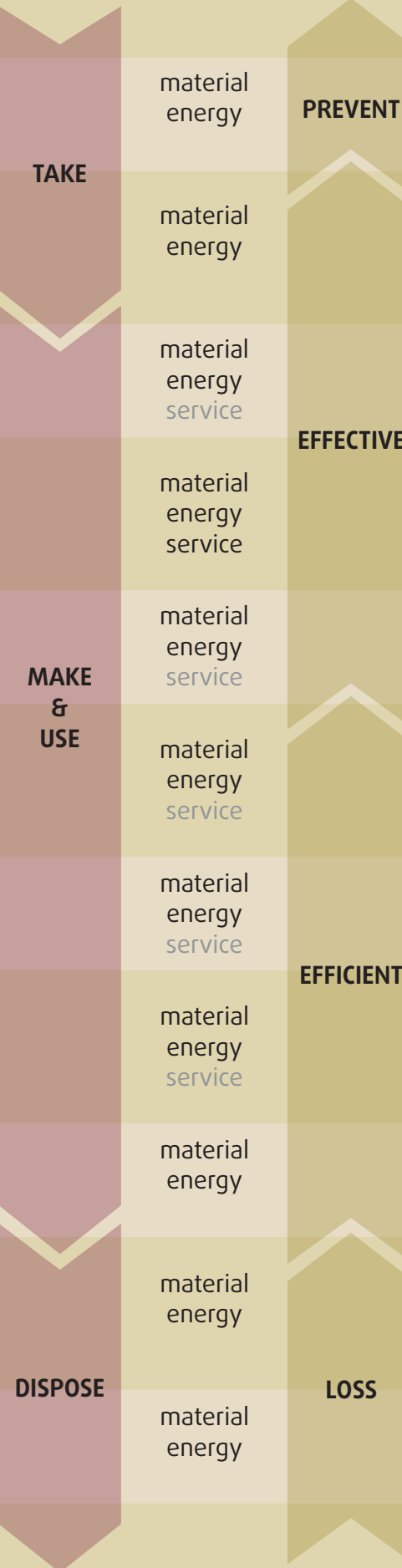
RESOURCE HIERARCHY

THE LEVELS of the RESOURCE HIERARCHY...



... APPLY TO ...

LIFE CYCLE PHASE RESOURCE DOMAIN RESOURCE USAGE



LEVEL DEFINITION

Rejection has effect on the take-stage. By preventing the usage of material or energy resources they do not need to be mined. It is said to be the highest level of the hierarchy.

Reduction is generally about turning down the tap. You still use some resources but less through simplification of product, increase of life span, reducing distance for transport, etc.

The library is the most common example for **reuse**. This level is about reuse on local level for example through sharing or leasing. Little transport is necessary.

Redistribution is also about reusing resources, but more transport is needed. For example reintroducing a second hand product in a new market.

Once resources are broken but are in their fixed state still valuable, **repairing** and maintenance are generally the least resource intensive solutions to extend the life of resource.

In case of electronics **refurbishment** is the combination of repaired and redistributed products. In many other cases it is the updating of a product to the current standards.

Repurpose is the update or adaption of a product such that it can be used to serve a new function or within another context.

Remanufacture is generally a more thorough process of disassembling a product, replace worn and broken parts with new ones and reassemble it.

Recycle is a term often used for simple reuse of materials. It actually concerns the chemical process of liquifying materials (such as smelting) to act as a feedstock for new material production.

Recovery is retrieving the lowest forms of energy or feedstock for energy production from a material. The actual material is broken down and cannot be recycled anymore.

Most hierarchies call this landfill. However, this stage is more than that. It concerns solids as well as liquids and gases to be **returned** back from economy to the ecology.

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ENABLERS:

