



# RCA R-LADDER

Move over Waste Management Hierarchy...  
there is a new kid in town



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**RECYCLING**



**CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY**

**RCA**

**Our Future  
is Circular.**

# DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE YOU WERE WHEN...

- The Blue Jays won the World Series?
- The Raptors won the NBA Championship?
- Wayne Gretzky got traded to L.A.?
- Sidney Crosby scored the Golden Goal?
- 

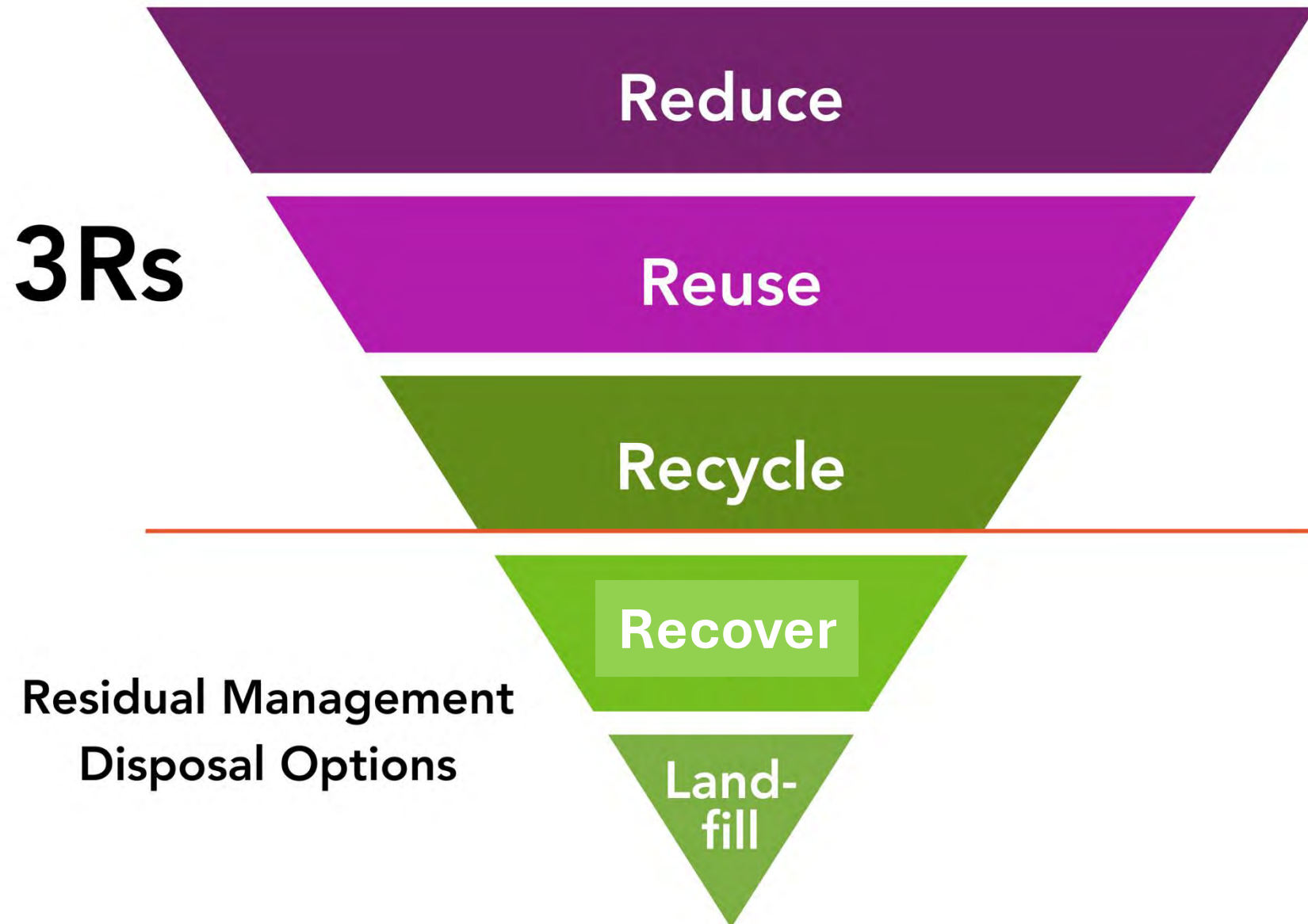




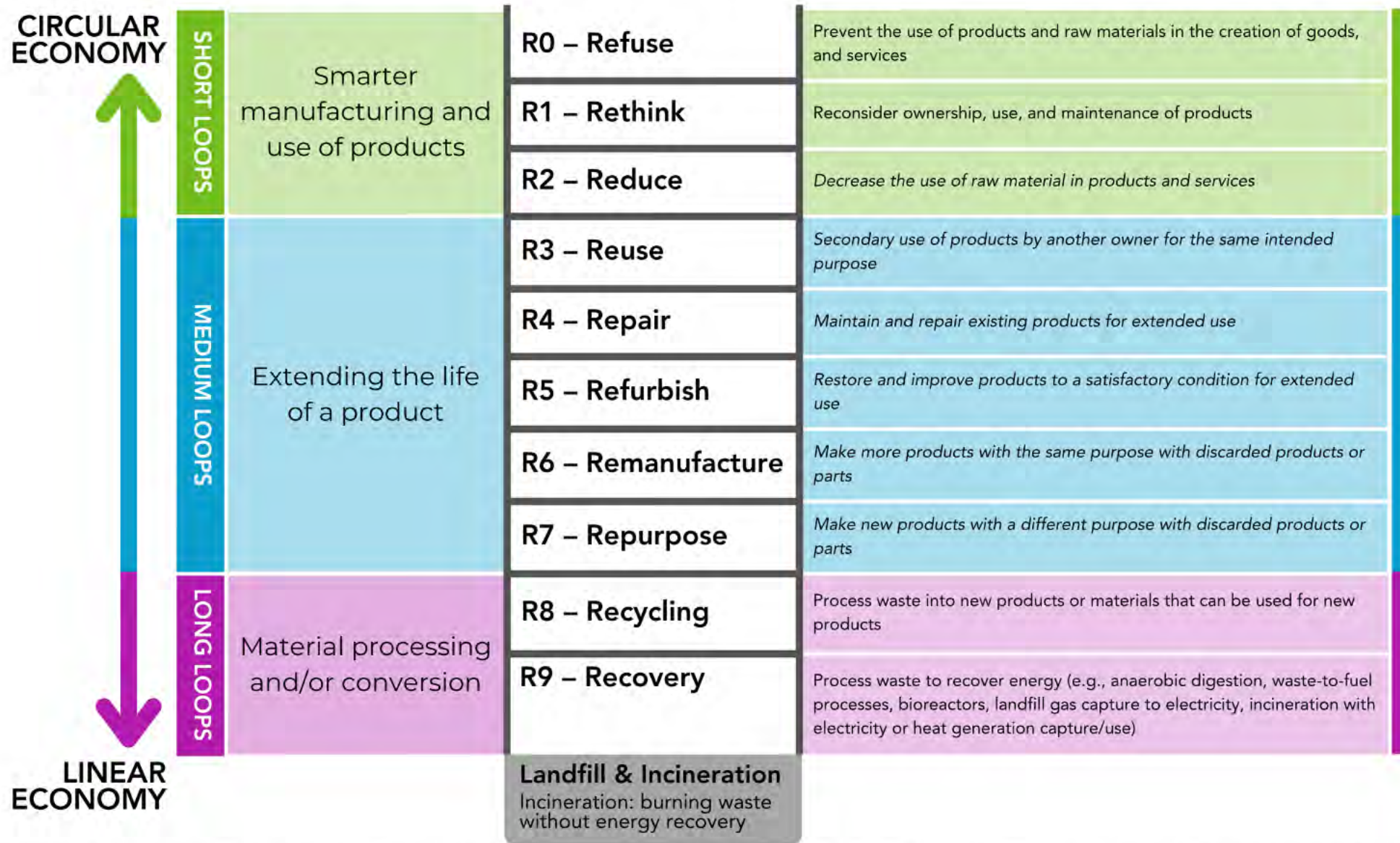
YOU'LL REMEMBER **TODAY** AS  
THE **FIRST TIME** YOU LEARNED  
ABOUT THE **R-LADDER!**



# Waste Management Hierarchy

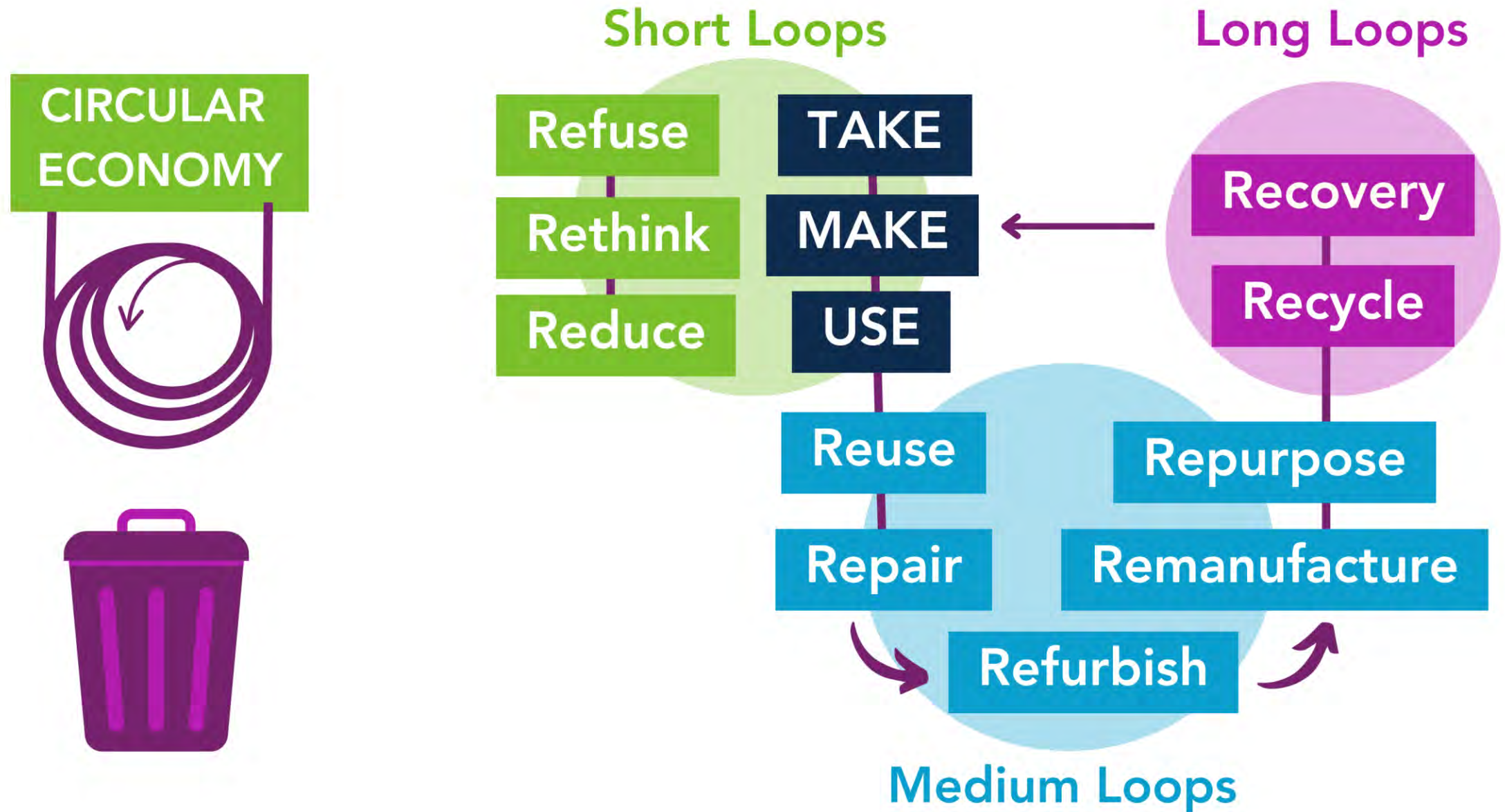


# Recycling Council of Alberta R-Ladder





# The Sustainable Way: Circular Economy





**THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

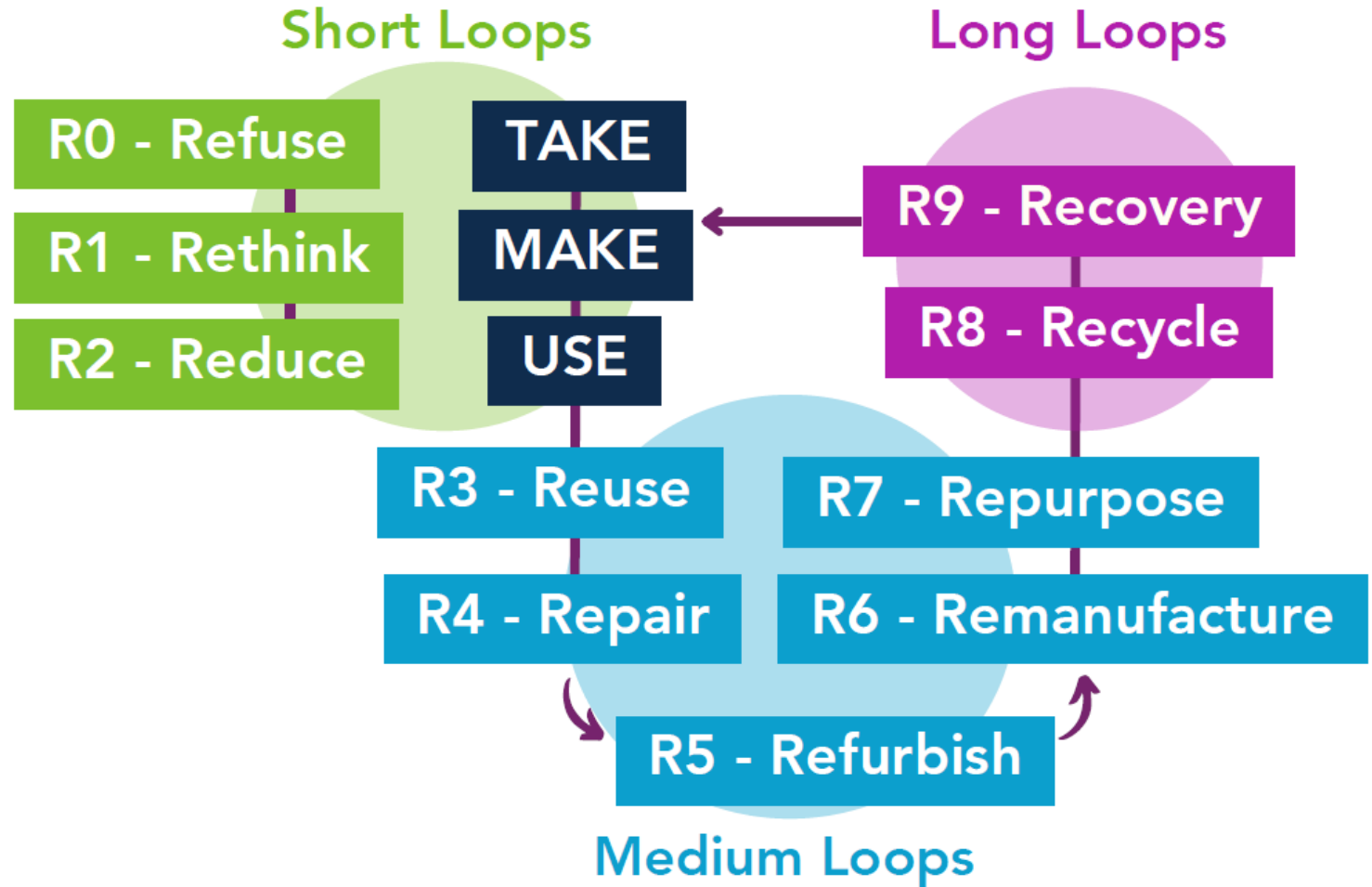
**PLAYBOOK**



# HOW TO USE THE PLAYBOOK TO WIN:

- R-Ladder is the game, Circular Economy is the prize, and the previous slides on the sustainable way are the playbook
- Higher score for shorter loops (green)
- Low to no score for recycling and recovery
- Negative scores for landfilling or burning
- Highest scores for regenerating nature
- Higher scores for staying in a loop forever!
-

Let's try  
out  
some  
plays





# TAKE-AWAY PLAYS



- The R-Ladder ranks actions for a circular economy — top = best
- Think of loops, not lines. Keep materials in play.
- Use the playbook to make smarter, higher-value decisions
- Circular economy isn't just about managing waste — **it's about designing out waste** and regenerating value

As the RCA is transitioning, we invite you  
to join our game!

The more players, the more winners!

RECYCLING  
COUNCIL  
OF ALBERTA

**RCA**

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is Circular.**





RECYCLING  
COUNCIL  
OF ALBERTA

RCA

# THANK YOU!

[info@recycle.ab.ca](mailto:info@recycle.ab.ca)



[recyclingcouncilab](https://www.instagram.com/recyclingcouncilab)



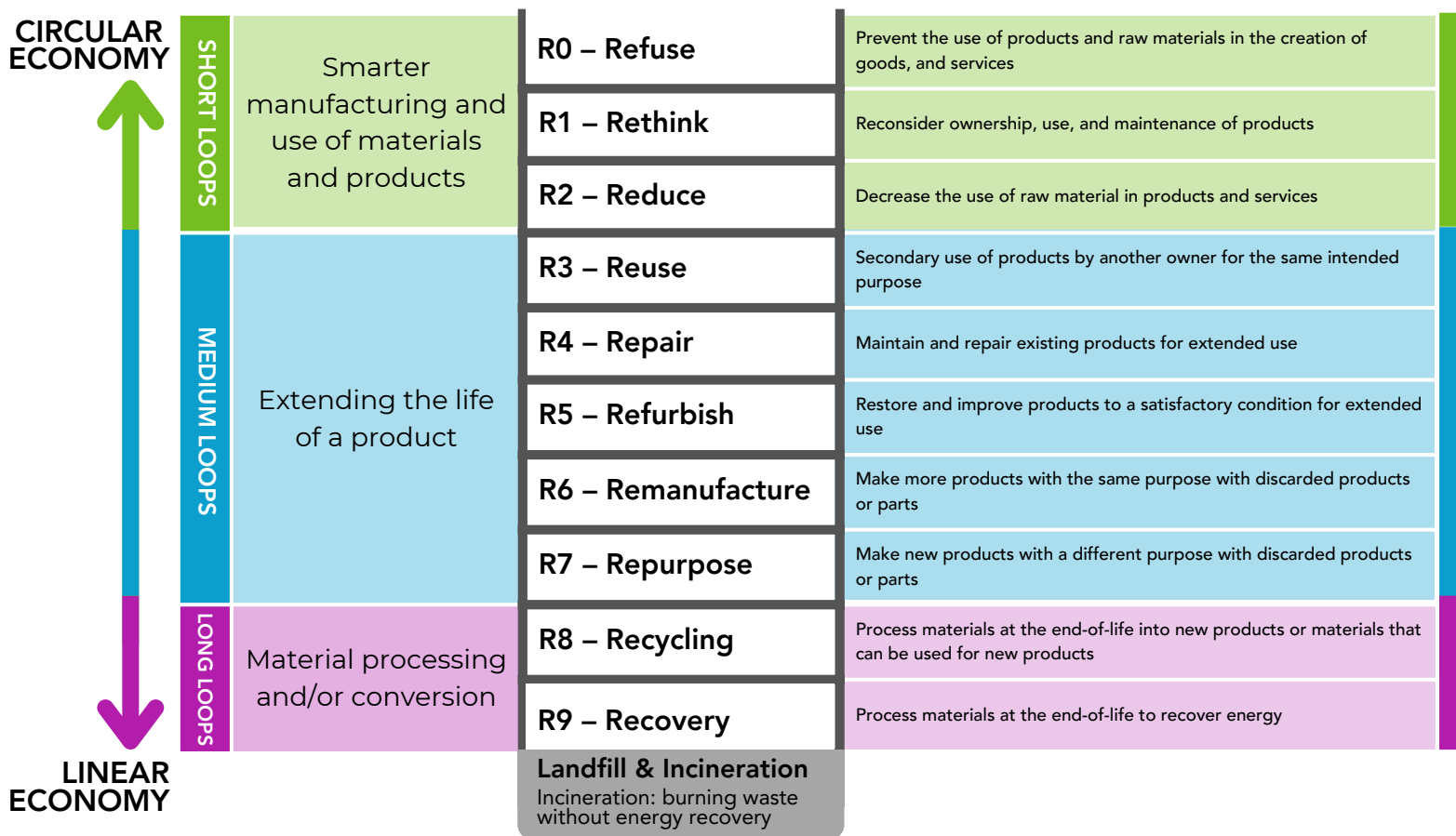
[Recycling Council of Alberta](https://www.linkedin.com/company/recycling-council-of-alberta)



[Recycling Council of Alberta](https://www.facebook.com/recyclingcouncilab)

# R-Strategies for a Circular Economy

Recycling Council of Alberta Adapted R-Ladder

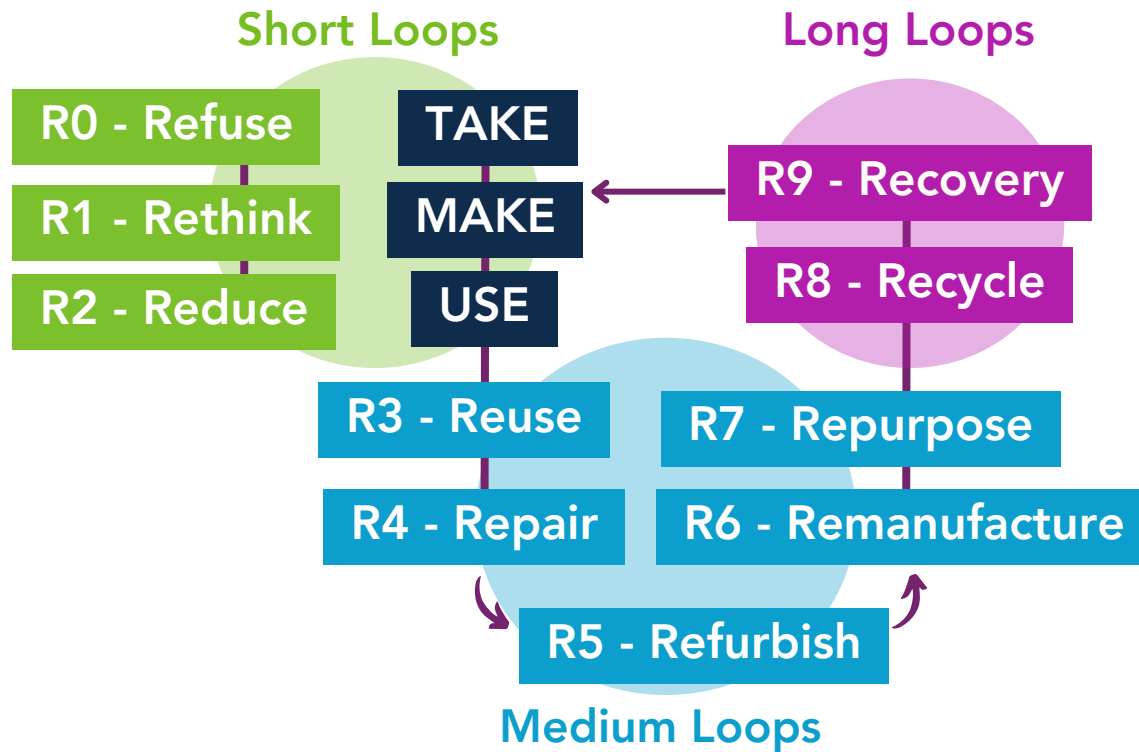


**Adapted from:** Circularise (<https://www.circularise.com/blogs/r-strategies-for-a-circular-economy>) and PBL (2017), *Circular Economy: Measuring Innovation in the Product Chain*, J. Potting, M. Hekkert, E. Worrell et al.



# R-Strategies for a Circular Economy

Recycling Council of Alberta Adapted R-Ladder



## Circular Economy Play Book

### Wooden Table

- A table gets made (MAKE)
- A table gets used as a kitchen table (USE)
- A table gets used as an office table (R3)
- A table gets used as a kids craft table (R3)
- A leg on the table gets broken, but then it gets repaired. (R4)
- The table then gets used as a garden shed table (R3)
- Someone comes along and loves the table and refinishes it and adds new feet/castors. (R5)
- The table then gets used as an office table again (R3)
- The table is then cut into smaller pieces and used back in the garden to mark the rows of the plants. (R7)
- Eventually the table breaks down and gets composted (R9) and helps the soil grow another tree to make another table (MAKE)

### Plastic Water Bottle

- Choose to drink water from the tap (R0)
- Need to buy bottle of water at airport (USE)
- Refill bottle at airport (R3)
- Refill bottle at hotel (R3)
- Put bottle in recycling bin (R8)
- New bottle is made from plastic (MAKE)

### Your Own Product/Service