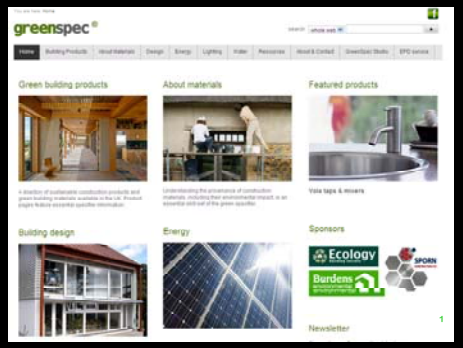

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Waste Hierarchy 2011

EU and EA definitions & implications

Introduction to the Waste Hierarchy

- Many businesses are unaware of how significantly waste impacts on their bottom line.
- As the demand for materials grows worldwide, raising input costs, it makes sense for businesses to adopt the waste hierarchy.
- EU Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC) revised, Article 4 sets out five steps for dealing with waste, ranked according to environmental impact

the ‘waste hierarchy’.

- best outcomes for the environment,
- priority order or descending order of environmental preference.
  - Prevention
  - Preparing for re-use,
  - Recycling
  - Other recovery
  - Disposal

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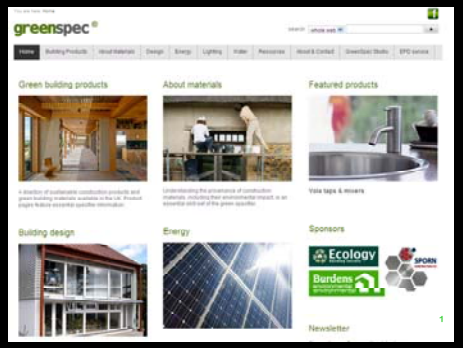
2011 Waste Hierarchy

What you need to do

- If your business or organisation
  - (including local authorities on behalf of householders)
- produces or handles waste
  - (this includes importing, producing, carrying, keeping or treating waste; dealers or brokers who have control of waste, and anyone responsible for the transfer of waste),
- you must take all such measures as are reasonable in the circumstances to:
- prevent waste, and
- apply the waste hierarchy when you transfer waste.



Prevention:

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- Using less material in design and manufacture.
- Keeping products for longer;
- Re-use
- Using less hazardous materials

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Preparing for re-use:

- Checking
- cleaning
- repairing
- refurbishing
- whole items or spare parts

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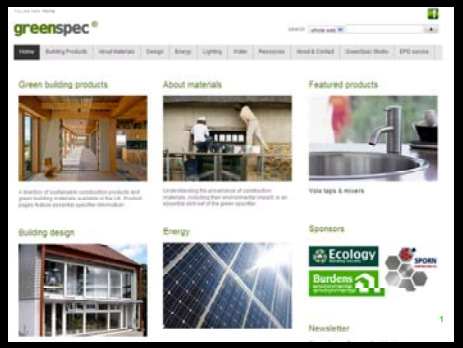

Recycling:

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- Turning waste into a new substance or product.
- Includes composting if it meets quality protocols

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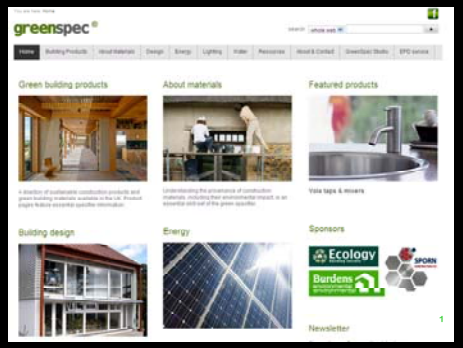

Other recovery:

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- anaerobic digestion
- incineration with energy recovery
- Gasification
- Pyrolysis
- which produce energy (fuels, heat and power) and materials from waste;
- some backfilling

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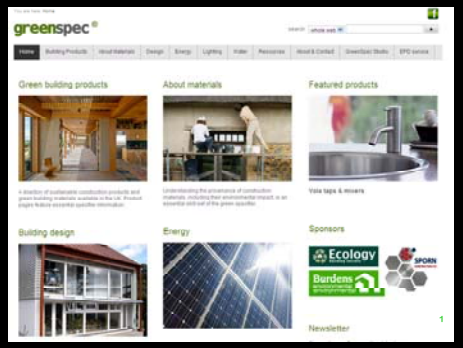

Disposal:

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- Landfill
- incineration without energy recovery

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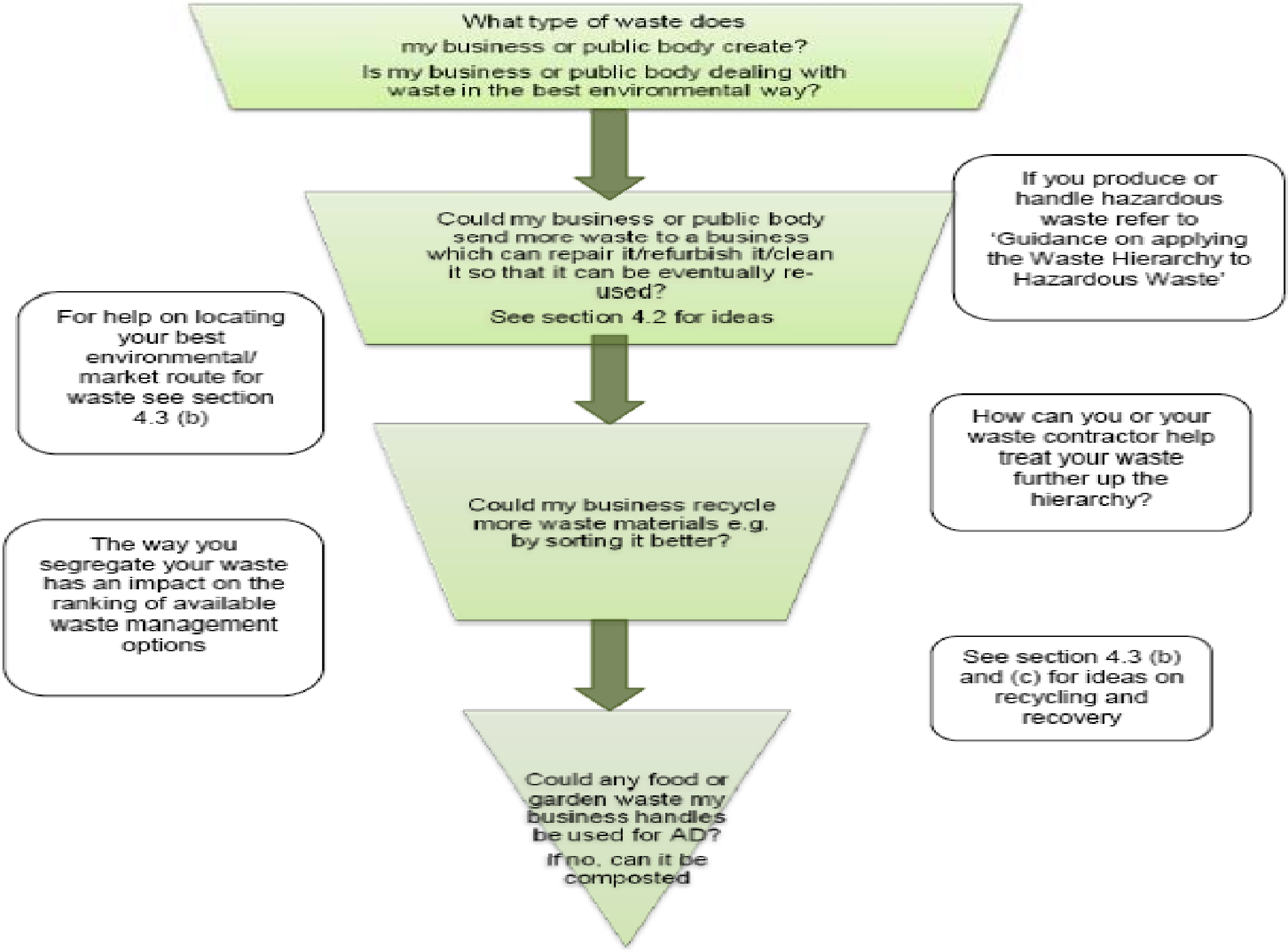
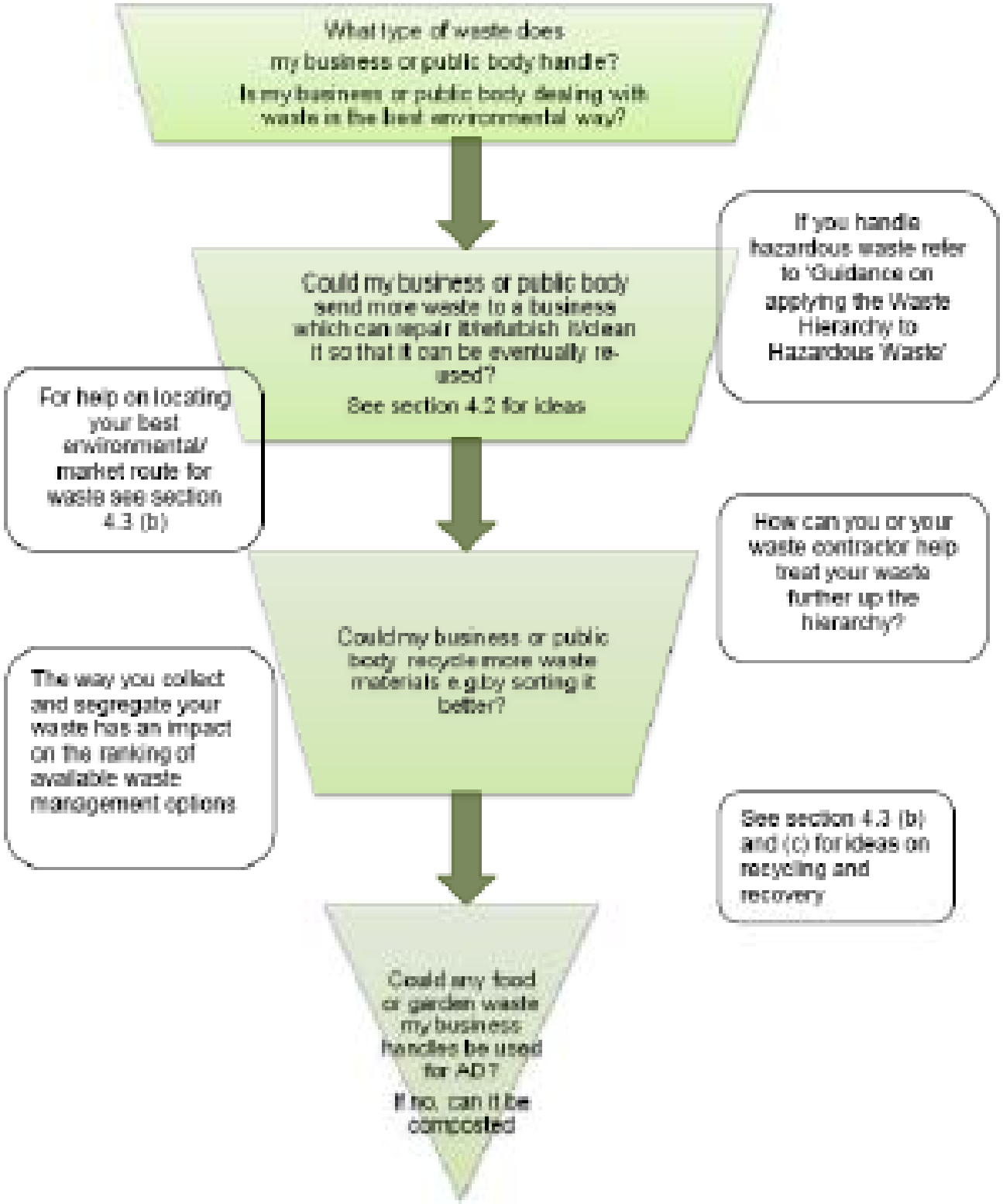
Paper and Card	Food	Garden Waste	Textiles	Wood	Glass	Metals	Plastics±	WEEE	Tyres	Residual 'black bag'
Prevention	Prevention	Prevention	Prevention	Prevention	Prevention	Prevention	Prevention	Prevention	Prevention	Prevention
Preparation for re-use			Preparation for re-use	Preparation for re-use	Preparation for re-use	Preparation for re-use	Preparation for re-use	Preparation for re-use	Re-treading	
Recycling	Anaerobic Digestion	Anaerobic Digestion (dry)[2]	Recycling	Recycling; energy recovery♦ (preferable to recycling for lower grade materials)	Recycling in a remelt process	Recycling	Closed loop recycling	Recycling (esp. suitable for metals and high quality plastic)	Recovery: use in road surfaces	Solid recovered fuel derived from MHT or MBT, where it replaces coal*
	Composting; other energy recovery technologies	Composting; other energy recovery technologies			Other recycling		Other recycling		Energy recovery in cement kilns	Energy Recovery, all technologies (Heat Only)
Energy recovery♦ (esp. suitable for short fibres or contaminated materials)			Energy recovery♦				Energy recovery♦	Energy recovery♦ (esp. suitable for non-hazardous mixed plastic)	Energy recovery through pyrolysis	Energy Recovery, all technologies (CHP)
					Energy recovery♦	Recycling after energy recovery			Other recovery (eg drainage fill & sea defences)	Energy Recovery, all technologies (Electricity Only)
									Gasification /incineration with EfW	MBT or MHT outputs used as fuel (but do not replace coal) or *
Disposal	Disposal	Disposal	Disposal	Disposal	Disposal	Disposal	Disposal	Disposal	Microwave treatment	Disposal


What type of waste does my business or public body create?
Is my business or public body dealing with waste in the best environmental way?
Could my business or public body send more waste to a business which can repair it/refurbish it/clean it so that it can be eventually re-used?
See section 4.2 for ideas
If you produce or handle hazardous waste refer to 'Guidance on applying the Waste Hierarchy to Hazardous Waste'
For help on locating your best environmental/ market route for waste see section 4.3 (b)
Could my business recycle more waste materials e.g. by sorting it better?
How can you or your waste contractor help treat your waste further up the hierarchy?
The way you segregate your waste has an impact on the ranking of available waste management options
See section 4.3 (b) and (c) for ideas on recycling and recovery
Could any food or garden waste my business handles be used for AD?
If no, can it be composted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Could my business or public body send more waste to a business which can repair /refurbish /clean it so that it can be eventually re-used?
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How can you or your waste contractor help treat your waste further up the hierarchy?
Could my business or public body recycle more waste materials e.g.by sorting it better?
The way you collect and segregate your waste has an impact on the ranking of available waste management options
See section 4.3 (b) and (c) for ideas on recycling and recovery
Could any food or garden waste my business handles be used for AD?
If no, can it be composted

Smarter use & reuse
Save money
Save resources
A world without waste
Cut CO2
Smarter design & build
Effective recycling & recovery

Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

- Incorporates the waste hierarchy into UK law
- Into force on 29 March 2011.
- The provisions relating to the hierarchy (set out at in Regulations 12, 15 and 35) into force on 28 September 2011.

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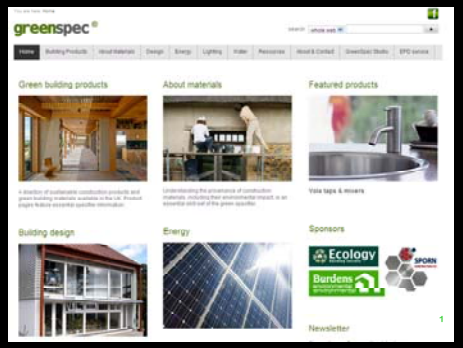

Feedback

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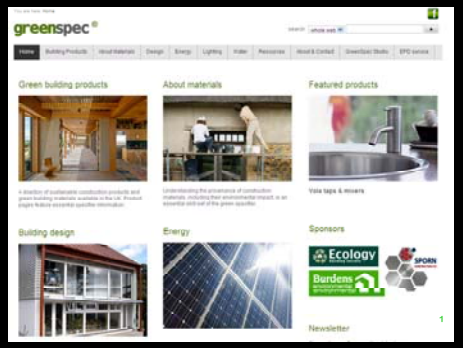
- These files are created by generalists with a big dollop of green flavour
- These files are updated from time to time
- We are not experts so from time to time these file may get out of date or may be wrong.
- If you feel that we have got it wrong please let us know so we can put it right



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