Waste Management Hierarchy

Reuse vs Recycle

Many businesses and consumers think that when they recycle their empty inkjet and toner cartridges with the major manufacturers that they are doing the best thing for the environment. And, while it is a responsible choice, they can take it a step further by sending their empties to companies that put them back to use, not to companies that take them out of circulation. This is a strong reason to work with West Point Products when recycling toner cartridges. Unlike manufacturers who destroy those returned empties, WPP remanufactures them for reuse—a greatly preferred approach.

It is estimated that 100 million laser print cartridges and 400 million inkjet printer cartridges are produced each year. Remanufacturing these 500 million cartridges will save an estimated four million cubic feet of landfill space. When a cartridge is remanufactured, it is reused. Reuse is the highest form of environmental responsibility. It is superior to recycling in that it doesn't use non-renewable resources to breakdown plastic and metal. A cartridge and all its components should always first be evaluated for refurbishment. If refurbishment is not possible then responsible recycling should be pursued.

Waste Management Hierarchy

1. Source Reduction and Reuse
2. Recycling/Composting
3. Combustion with Energy Recovery
4. Landfilling and Incineration without Energy Recovery

US Environmental Protection Agency, Waste website:
http://www.epa.gov/wastes/nonhaz/municipal/hierarchy.htm

This stance is echoed by multiple government agencies including the U.S. Dept. of Energy Office of Industrial Technologies and the Environmental Protection Agency. The U.S. Dept. of Energy Office of Industrial Technologies has stated that although the recycling of toner cartridges does have a number of benefits, remanufacturing is a superior choice, both environmentally and economically. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency's Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN) recommends that procuring agencies establish procedures and policies that give priority to remanufacturing the agencies' expended toner cartridges.