Catalogue of sustainable development principles

Description of the rules[1]:

The principle of "**REFUSE"** is the abandonment of the use of materials, substances or products that are not reusable, repairable or recyclable, or that have negative impacts on the environment or on human life and health. The application of the principle should be reflected in the complete (100%) elimination of such materials, substances or products. Application of the principle may also consist in conducting studies on the abandonment of materials, substances or products that are not reusable, repairable or recyclable, or that have negative impacts on the environment or on human life and health.

The principle of **"REDUCE"** is to reduce the consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources, materials, substances or products through appropriate technological, logistical or economic measures. Reduction should lead to a real reduction in the resources, materials, substances or products consumed during or as a result of pre-implementation work. The application of the principle should be reflected in the minimizing the use of specific resources, materials, substances or products without a simultaneous significant increase in the use of other resources, materials, substances or products. Application of the principle may also consist in by conducting studies on the reduction of the use of resources, materials, substances or products through the application of appropriate technological, logistical or economic measures.

The **"REUSE"** principle is the reuse of materials, raw materials or products that, instead of becoming waste in one production or service process, become raw materials for another. The principle can also lead to the use of materials, raw materials or products for new functions if they are no longer applicable in their current form. The application of the principle should be reflected in the diversion to use or the assignment of a new, relevant function in a given or other activity, to specific materials, substances or products. Application of the principle can also consist in conducting research on advanced product remanufacturing technologies or creating systems to promote reuse, as well as conducting research and implementing innovations on advanced product remanufacturing technologies or creating systems to promote reuse.

The **"RECOVER (REPAIR)"** principle consists of introduction of such technological, logistical and marketing solutions that ensure the availability of spare parts, operating and repair manuals, technical information or other tools, hardware or software that allow products to be repaired and reused without compromising their quality and safety. Application of the principle also involves extending the life cycle of a product by making it possible to repair, refresh or improve its aesthetics, or creating comprehensive systems to promote product repair. Application of the principle should be reflected by introduction of the possibility of repairing, refreshing, renewing or improving specific products or their components as a result of which the life of the product or component will be extended. The change may apply to equipment and machinery. The application of the principle may also be consist in conducting research and implementing innovations on advanced product remanufacturing technologies or creating systems to promote product repair and remanufacturing.

The **"RECYCLE"** principle refers to a situation where a product, material or substance cannot be reused or repaired/remanufactured, and the resulting waste cannot be reused or lose its waste status. Such waste should be diverted to processing for reuse for its original purpose or transformed into new materials and products. Organic recycling involving aerobic or anaerobic treatment of waste should also be considered in compliance with the principle. Application of the principle should be reflected by the referral to recycling of specific materials, substances or products for which it was impossible to apply the principles: "reuse" or "recover". The change may apply to equipment and machinery. The use of recycled materials, substances or products in the activity, including after the loss of waste status, is also in compliance with the principle. Application of the principle may also consist in conducting research on advanced recycling technologies.

According to the principle of **"RETHINK (THINK WHAT YOU CAN DO BETTER)"** anyone who undertakes activities that cause or may cause waste or environmental impacts should plan and design such activities using such modes of production or forms of service, as well as raw materials and materials so as to prevent or significantly reduce the generation of waste or reduce its negative impact on human life and health and the environment. The essence of this principle is to plan and design with the full life cycle of a product or service in mind. To this end, it is necessary to identify materials, substances or products that are major sources of environmental impact or waste generation, and then take measures to prevent or reduce their use. Application of the principle should be reflected by conducting environmental life cycle assessment studies and evaluations, assessing the product's environmental footprint, conducting other environmental certification, obtaining an eco-label, or verifying the environmental technology for the product or service. Conducting purchases in accordance with green procurement criteria is also in compliance with the principle.

[1] Source: https://www.nowoczesnagospodarka.gov.pl/media/139174/Poradnik_kwestie_srodowiskowe_FENG.pdf (in Polish), modified.