While all cost optimization levers work in tandem with each other, there are clear benefits that can be achieved with each of these levers. The levers, mapped to their benefits, are:

* **Waste management**
  + Shut down unused instances: Reduce cost of unused instances; shutting down instances enables run features for different environments.
  + Unattached disks cleanup: Promote reduction of waste and enable IT teams to focus holistically on core capabilities, improving time to market.
  + Snapshots cleanup: Identify areas to delete snapshots that are old or unused; decide retention for snapshots.
  + Account restructuring: Reduce costs by deleting unused accounts along with services running, if applicable.
  + Network IP cleanup: Delete unattached network IPs to reduce unused resources.
* **Consumption management**
  + Expensive storage replacement: Reduce costs by evaluating the storage requirements on parameters such as storage type required (SSD vs. HDD).
  + Instance rightsizing: Remove resource consumption of your VMs, determine correct instance size for optimum cost and performance and to reduce overprovisioning.
  + Automating optimization: Autoscale systems to utilize resources effectively, which results in continuous optimization.
  + Tagging analysis: Improve asset costing, which helps manage expenses and derive better cost insights.
  + Instance discounting: Provide spin transparency across the enterprise and in understanding the performance of assets.
* **Purchasing best practices**
  + Migration to lower-cost instance types or regions: Reduce technical debt and improve asset planning driven through efficient budgeting and forecasting.
  + Leveraging reserved and spot instance strategy: Promote efficient budget planning and tighter spend control through improvements in FinOps.
  + Enterprise agreement: Create opportunities to obtain better deals and discounts on cloud cost, depending on how accounts are set up.
* **Cost-aware architecture**
  + Modernize workflow: Create opportunities to identify business process resulting in application architecture changes at the application logic level.
  + Modernize tech stack: Identify modernization opportunities for the technology stack to be cloud native.
  + Refactor architecture: Revisit cloud deployment models converting services to adopt containers and managed PaaS.