

Annual Report and Action Plan

Company Name: **COMSOL PTY LTD**

Trading As: **COMSOL PTY LTD**

ABN: **48069997422**

About APCO

Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) is a co-regulatory not-for-profit organisation leading the development of a circular economy for packaging in Australia. APCO's vision is a packaging value chain that collaborates to keep packaging materials out of landfill and retains the maximum value of the materials, energy and labour within the local economy.

Each year, APCO Brand Owner Members are required to submit an APCO Annual Report and an APCO Action Plan. This document is the Annual Report and Action Plan output for the organisation listed above. This document provides the overall performance level of the organisation, as well as any commitments they have made to work towards on their packaging sustainability journey. This document may also include additional information provided by the Member in their report.

Overall Performance **Beyond Best Practice**

The chart below indicates the overall performance level of this organisation listed above in the 2024 APCO Annual Report. The organisation's reporting period was **January, 2023 - December, 2023**

1 Getting Started 2 Good Progress 3 Advanced 4 Leading 5 Beyond Best Practice

Understanding APCO Annual Reporting performance levels:

- 1 Getting Started:** You are at the start of your packaging sustainability journey.
- 2 Good Progress:** You have made some first steps on your packaging sustainability journey.
- 3 Advanced:** You have taken tangible action on your packaging sustainability journey.
- 4 Leading:** You have made significant progress on your packaging sustainability journey.
- 5 Beyond Best Practice:** You have received the highest performance level and have made significant progress on your packaging sustainability journey.

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Additional Information

The information below indicates additional information that the organisation included in their APCO Annual Report.

Please tell us about any innovative packaging sustainability initiatives you have implemented during your chosen 12 month reporting period.

With our current packaging designs standardised in previous reporting years the most significant area of note is in the educational content created, Closing The E-Loop. The content equips individuals with knowledge and fosters collaboration to combat the global e-waste crisis. This initiative is designed to empower individuals to take decisive action against the mounting threat of electronic waste through knowledge and collaboration.

At its core, Closing The E-Loop represents a holistic approach to e-waste management (both product and packaging) promoting multi-stakeholder participation across the supply chain, fostering understanding, and encouraging action at all levels of society. Through engaging and informative resources, individuals gain insight into the lifecycle of electronic products and the circular economy, demystifying complex concepts and making sustainability accessible to all.

Specifically content with APCO, National Retail Association and Grounded Packaging provide in depth resources for packaging sustainability initiatives.

APCO content synopsis:

-Learn about the complexities of recycling, the importance of sustainable packaging, the need for accurate labelling and how businesses are increasingly engaging across the supply chain. Explore APCO's pivotal role in the transition towards a circular economy for packaging. Learn how APCO collaborates with diverse stakeholders to establish a sustainable packaging ecosystem. Find out about the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines and gain insights into the requirements that ensure credibility with the Australasian Recycling Label (ARL). Learn how the ARL combats greenwashing and empowers individuals to make informed recycling choices.

National Retail Association (NRA) synopsis:

-Access valuable knowledge, facilitating a deeper understanding of packaging and witness the optimism the NRA holds for a sustainable future driven by conscious consumers and industry initiatives. Learn about the NRA's efforts to enhance sustainability. Discover how the NRA, representing a vast array of retail outlets, prioritises waste reduction and sustainability, shaping a more eco-conscious retail industry. Find out how consumers can make informed choices by understanding the nuances of eco-friendly products and sustainable packaging. Understand how sustainability labelling can empower people's choices for a sustainable future.

Grounded Packaging content synopsis

-Understand the variety and impacts of the materials used for packaging and find out how consumers can actively use purchase power to support brands leading a transition away from single-use plastics. Explore Grounded Packaging's specialised approach to developing sustainable packaging. Learn how globally certified materials and cutting-edge manufacturing techniques can combat the pervasive issue of single-use plastics. Find out about plastic packaging, its origins, and the benefits of opting for recycled or bioplastic alternatives. Learn about the crucial role of sourcing secondary materials for packaging to reduce virgin fossil fuel use.

APCO Action Plan Commitments

For each of the Packaging Sustainability Framework criteria listed below, a description is provided along with the commitments made by the organisation in their APCO Action Plan.

Criteria 1:

Governance & Strategy:

This criteria considers actions to integrate packaging sustainability into business strategies.

- Develop a strategy that includes goals for packaging sustainability that addresses the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs) or equivalent.
- Include a commitment to the 2025 National Packaging Targets and aim to integrate it within business processes.
- Communicate and promote packaging sustainability objectives and targets within your organisation and to external stakeholders (suppliers, final consumers, community groups etc.).

Criteria 2:

Design & Procurement:

This criteria considers actions taken to ensure that sustainability principles are considered in the design or procurement of both new and existing packaging through use of the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs).

- Use the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines to review our packaging to identify opportunities for improvement.
- Record the outcomes of reviews or packaging using the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines so that any team member can refer back to them in future and for auditing purposes.
- Conduct packaging reviews using the SPGs for **100%** of our packaging.

Criteria 3:

Recycled Content:

This criteria considers actions taken to increase or optimise the amount of recycled material used by your organisation.

- Develop a policy or procedure to buy products and/or packaging made from recycled materials.
- Aim to use recycled materials in any packaging where this is feasible, including:
 - Primary packaging
 - Secondary packaging
 - Tertiary packaging

Criteria 4:

Recoverability:

This criteria considers actions taken to improve the recovery of packaging at end-of-life and increase use of reusable packaging.

- Investigate whether all of our packaging is recyclable at end-of-life and identify any gaps and opportunities for greater reuse or recycling.

Criteria 5:

Disposal Labelling:

This criteria considers the extent to which packaging has been labelled to help consumers determine what to do with packaging at end-of-life.

- As packaging is updated or refreshed, add on-pack information for consumers on recyclability or correct disposal.

Criteria 6:

On-site Waste:

This criteria considers progress in increasing the amount of on-site solid waste being diverted from landfill.

- Develop a system to collect and recycle used packaging generated at our facilities.

Criteria 7:

Problematic Materials:

This criteria considers the extent to which organisations are actively phasing out problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging and preventing/reducing litter.

- Undertake the following to help reduce the impact of litter:
 - Conduct regular clean-ups on-site
 - Look for opportunities to redesign packaging to eliminate components that may have the propensity to become litter
 - During the reporting period Comsol created a first-of-its-kind educational resource, Closing The E-Loop. The content equips individuals with knowledge and fosters collaboration to combat the global e-waste crisis. This initiative is designed to empower individuals to take decisive action against the mounting threat of electronic waste through knowledge and collaboration.

At its core, Closing The E-Loop represents a holistic approach to e-waste management (both product and packaging) promoting multi-stakeholder participation across the supply chain, fostering understanding, and encouraging action at all levels of society. Through engaging and informative resources, individuals gain insight into the lifecycle of electronic products and the circular economy, demystifying complex concepts and making sustainability accessible to all.

Further commitments:

These commitments look at additional actions the organisation may take to improve reporting.

No commitments have been made for this criteria this year.