

18 November 2022

OFFICEWORKS WINS NATIONAL INDUSTRY SECTOR SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Officeworks' commitment to people and the planet has been recognised at the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation's (APCO) Industry Sector Awards, winning the Large Retailer Award.

The award recognises Officeworks' continuous commitment to achieving its 2025 National Packaging Targets as it works towards making all primary and secondary packaging reusable or recyclable.

Officeworks' People and Planet Positive Report for 2021-2022 shows that of its 7,100 own brand products, 99.8 per cent of product packaging is fully recyclable. By improving and simplifying the design of product packaging, the retailer has eliminated the annual equivalent of 4.7 million pieces of packaging components, making it easier for customers to practice positive recycling behaviours.

In addition to its own brand products, Officeworks is helping local product suppliers phase out components such as expanded polystyrene and PVC across their entire range.

Officeworks Chief Financial Officer Brendan Hargreaves who leads the Officeworks ESG team said: "This is great recognition for the broader team on all the work achieved to date to remove plastic, composite packaging and problematic plastics from own brand products.

"Driven by the Merchandise and ESG Teams, our Private Brand packaging designers, product developers and suppliers have worked together to re-engineer packaging, to meet the rising expectations of our customers.

"We will continue to work hard to remove problematic plastics in both products and packaging, by working with all suppliers to design and implement more sustainable alternatives that are easier to recycle and safer to use."

Chris Foley, CEO, APCO said: "On behalf of APCO, I am delighted to present the Large Retailer Award to Officeworks in recognition of the leadership and innovation they have shown in sustainable packaging.

"The scale of change their program has achieved in reducing unnecessary packaging is testament to an incredible commitment to sustainable packaging innovation, design and leadership which is and will continue to have significant positive impact for the planet."

Officeworks People and Planet Positive 2025 Plan is its long-term approach to supporting the aspirations of their team and local communities, upholding and respecting human rights, taking meaningful climate action, contributing to a more circular economy, and helping customers shop sustainably.

The retailer has made 18 commitments in the plan, including becoming a zero-waste business, planting two million trees, achieving net zero emissions by 2025 and phasing out problematic plastics. Read Officeworks' FY21-22 People and Planet Positive Report [here](#).

The annual APCO Awards ceremony was held on Thursday 10 November and recognises industry leadership and celebrates Australian businesses which are developing and implementing sustainable solutions to recycling and packaging design.

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ABOUT OFFICEWORKS

Established 28 years ago in Richmond, Victoria, Officeworks is committed to making bigger things happen for its customers, team, the community and stakeholders. It operates 167 stores across Australia, a website that is home to more than 40,000 products, a national call centre, and a business team that helps micro, small and medium-sized businesses start, run and grow and Australians to work, learn, create and connect.

Officeworks offers customers a wide range of office supplies, technology, furniture, art supplies, education resources and helpful services like print & copy and on-site and remote tech support through Geeks2U – delivering an experience that is easy and engaging, no matter how customers choose to shop.

Officeworks is focused on the safety, wellbeing and career progression of the more than 9,000 team members it employs. It's also dedicated to operating in a sustainable manner, including building and maintaining meaningful connections with the communities in which it operates, fundraising for its national partners and local community groups, continuing to reduce its impact on the environment and source responsibly.

ABOUT AUSTRALIAN PACKAGING COVENANT ORGANISATION

The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) is the agency charged by government to make all packaging reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025. To achieve this goal, APCO is working closely with government and industry to deliver a range of sustainable design, recycling, waste to landfill reduction and circular economy projects. Recognised as one of Australia's leading product stewardship organisations with a strong national and global collaborative network, APCO is committed to reducing the environmental impact of packaging on Australian communities by moving towards a circular economy.

For more information about APCO visit: www.apco.org.au