Annual Report and Action Plan

Company Name:	**Cisco Systems Australia Pty Limited**
Trading As:	**Cisco Systems Australia**
ABN:	**52050332940**

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 Advanced

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 **August, 2022 - July, 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.

Describe initiatives, processes or practices that you have implemented during your chosen reporting period that have improved packaging sustainability

Cisco has documented its strategy, goals and objectives for sustainable packaging in the 2022 Cisco Purpose Report starting on page 7: (https://www.cisco.com/c/dam/m/en_us/about/csr/esg-hub/_pdf/purpose-report-2023.pdf).

Sustainable packaging is part of Cisco's Circular Design strategy. Cisco has embedded Circular Design Principles into standard design tools and processes, and is developing a methodology to measure progress toward our goal to design 100 percent of new Cisco products and packaging to incorporate circular design principles by FY25. The Circular Design Principles are found here: https://www.cisco.com/c/m/en_us/about/csr/esg-hub/environment/circular-economy.html

Please use the space below to provide examples or case studies of exemplary packaging sustainability conducted by your organisation.

Cisco has achieved the following materials savings in FY23:
• 22% reduction in foam used in Cisco product packaging as measured by weight (over fiscal 2019 base year).
• Increase product packaging cube efficiency by 65% (over fiscal 2019 base year)
• Cisco's IoT business unit offers a multipack option for Catalyst IR1101 Rugged Series Router customers with large orders, which reduced our corrugate cardboard use by approximately 14,915 pounds in fiscal 2023.
• A ten-pack (multipack) option for the Catalyst 9100 Series Access Points is available to customers with large orders, providing an estimated material waste reduction of 370,188 pounds in fiscal 2023.
• The Catalyst IR8140 Heavy Duty Router is the first solution at Cisco to use a fiber-flute material in its packaging suited for heavier products instead of using foam cushioning. The material change eliminates an estimated 658 pounds of fossil fuel-based foam in fiscal 2023.
• The packaging for the Catalyst C9300 Series Switches was redesigned to remove 0.46 pounds of polystyrene foam per unit and replace it with recycled HDPE thermoform cushions. This packaging redesign applied across C9300 product portfolio and reduced Cisco's use of foam by 335,922 pounds in fiscal 2023.
• Cisco's NCS 540 Medium Density Router packaging was re-deigned using recycled HDPE thermoform cushions. This packaging change removed 1.4 pounds of foam per unit and reduce the overall carton size. Overall, this avoided the use of foam by 37,695 pounds in fiscal 2023.

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 (objectives) and targets for packaging sustainability that addresses the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs) or equivalent.
- Have our executive or board of directors review our strategy and have the strategy integrated within our business processes.
- Regularly communicate and promote packaging sustainability objectives and targets within our organisation.
- Regularly engage or communicate with our external stakeholders about the environmental impacts of our packaging.
- Actively participate in initiatives to promote packaging sustainability outside of our organisation.

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).

- Review **65**% of our packaging against the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (or equivalent).
- Consider the following Sustainable Packaging Principles in our packaging reviews:
  - Design for recovery
  - Optimise material efficiency
  - Design to reduce product waste
  - Eliminate hazardous materials
  - Use of renewable materials
  - Use recycled materials
  - Design to minimise litter
  - Design for transport efficiency
- **65**% of our packaging to be optimised for material efficiency.
- Improve the accuracy of our data regarding packaging material efficiency.

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.
- Use recycled content in:
  - Our products
  - Primary packaging that we use to sell our products
  - Secondary packaging that we use to sell our products
  - Other items which we purchase (e.g. office stationary and suppliers etc.)

- **83**% of our packaging to be made using some level of recycled material
- Improve the accuracy of our data regarding use of recycled materials.

Criteria 4:
Recoverability:

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

- **83**% of our packaging to be designed to have all packaging components be recoverable at end-of-life.
- Investigate opportunities to use reusable packaging.

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.

- Improve the accuracy of our data regarding labelling.

Criteria 6:
On-site Waste:

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

- Have recycling programs for the following materials:
    - Paper/cardboard
    - Soft plastics
    - Rigid plastics
    - Glass
    - Metals
- Aim for **78**% of our on-site waste to be diverted from landfill.

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.

- Help reduce litter by:
    - Conducting regular clean ups
    - Participating in Business Clean Up Day
    - Delivering a litter education campaign

- Phase-out the following problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic items:
    - Rigid polyvinyl chloride (PVC) packaging