

APCO Performance Summary

Company Name: **Pohlman's Nursery Pty. Ltd.**

Trading As: **Pohlman's Nursery**

ABN: **16010428565**

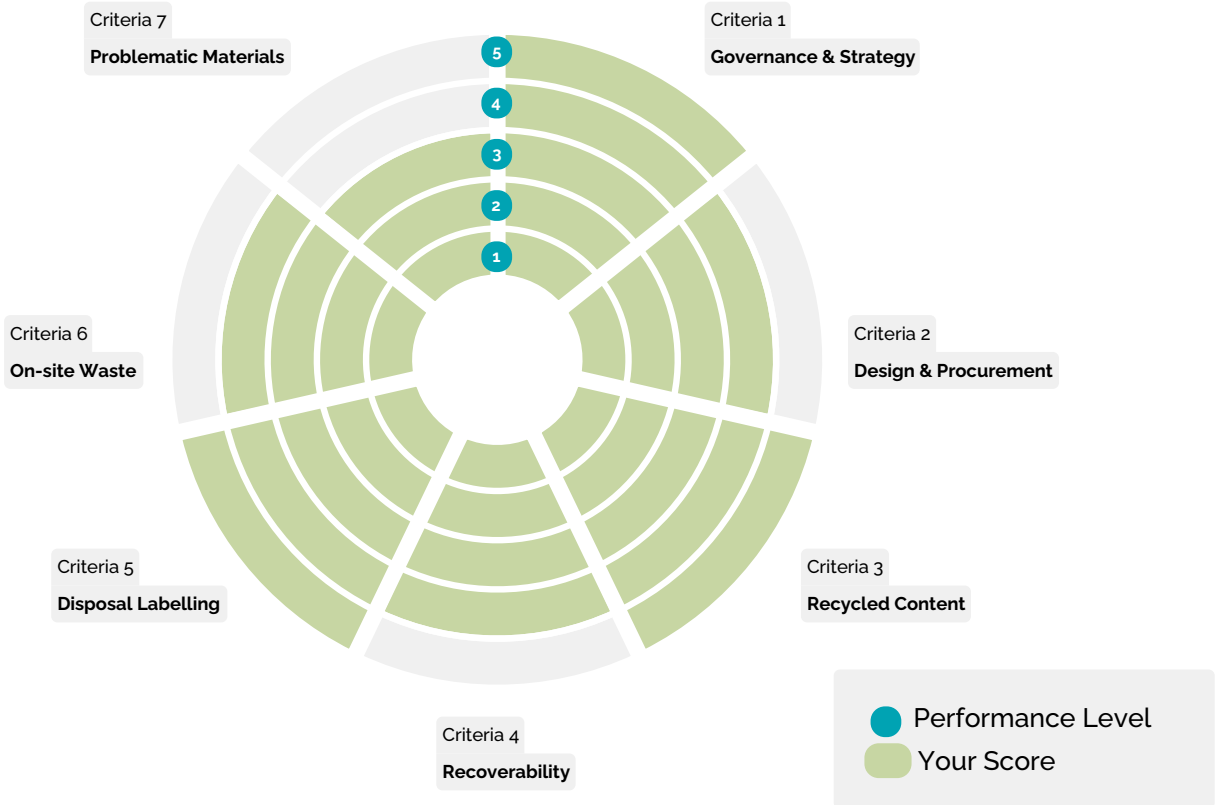
Overall Performance 77% - Leading

The score above and chart below indicate your organisation's overall performance in the 2024 APCO Annual Report. With your chosen reporting period of **January, 2023 - December, 2023** you have achieved a **Leading** overall performance level.



Criteria Performance Levels

The chart below indicates your organisation's performance against each of the Packaging Sustainability Framework criteria in the 2024 APCO Annual Report. Each band represents a performance level with the green indicating your level of performance for each.



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About APCO Annual Reporting

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.

Packaging Sustainability Framework criteria

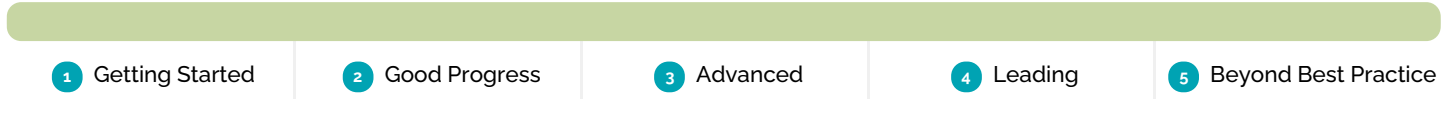
Criteria 1: Governance & Strategy	This criteria considers actions to integrate packaging sustainability into business strategies.
Criteria 2: Design & Procurement	This criteria considers actions taken to ensure that sustainability principles are considered in the design or procurement of both new and existing packaging through use of the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs).
Criteria 3: Recycled Content	This criteria considers actions taken to increase or optimise the amount of recycled material used by your organisation.
Criteria 4: Recoverability	This criteria considers actions taken to improve the recovery of packaging at end-of-life and increase use of 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.
Criteria 6: On-site Waste	This criteria considers progress in increasing the amount of on-site solid waste being 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.

APCO Annual Report Criteria Performance & Responses

Provided below are your organisation's responses to the questions within the APCO Annual Report as well as a performance level for each criteria.

Criteria 1:

Governance & Strategy: 5 Beyond Best Practice



Does your organisation have a documented strategy that includes goals (objectives) and targets for packaging sustainability that addresses the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs) or equivalent? Yes No

Does your organisation's strategy include a commitment to achieving the 2025 National Packaging Targets? Yes No

Is this strategy integrated within your business processes and has it been approved by an executive or board of directors? Yes No

Do you regularly communicate and promote packaging sustainability objectives and targets within your organisation? Yes No

Do you regularly engage or communicate with external stakeholders (suppliers, final consumers, community groups etc.) about the environmental impacts of your packaging? Yes No

Do you actively participate in any other initiatives to promote packaging sustainability outside of your organisation? Yes No

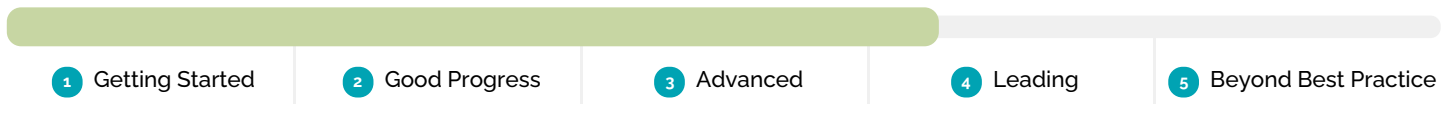
Supporting Evidence

The Packaging Sustainability Strategy is endorsed by Senior managers, directors and board (Contained within Sustainability plan)
 Packaging sustainability and waste initiatives are reported monthly to Management and Board meetings by Innovation and Special Projects Manager.

Your full response can be found towards the end of this document.

Criteria 2:

Design & Procurement: 4 Leading



How many of your 12 SKUs have had their packaging reviewed against the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (or equivalent) in the last 5 years?

0

Please indicate the accuracy of this response.

Medium

Do you require your suppliers to use the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs) or equivalent for your packaging?

Yes No N/A

Please tell us about any positive outcomes from your packaging reviews.

Do you believe applying the SPGs delivers business value to your organisation?

Yes No

Which of the following Sustainable Packaging Principles have been considered in reviews of your organisation's packaging against the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs)?

Design for recovery

Yes No

Optimise material efficiency

Yes No

Design to reduce product waste

Yes No

Eliminate hazardous materials

Yes No

Use of renewable materials

Yes No

Use recycled materials

Yes No

Design to minimise litter

Yes No

Design for transport efficiency

Yes No

Design for accessibility

Yes No

Provide consumer information on environmental sustainability

Yes No

How many of the 12 SKUs have packaging that has been optimised for material efficiency in the last 5 years?

12

Please indicate the accuracy of this response.

Medium

If yes, please tell us about any material savings you have made.

Supporting Evidence

It is our understanding that all cardboard products used for shipping products have the SPG's (or equivalent) considered in their design & manufacture by the manufacturer.

New PP5 products to be introduced in 2024 have been assessed against some or all of the SPG's (To be included in 2024 report).

Criteria 3:

Recycled Content: 5 Beyond Best Practice

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

Do you have a policy or procedure to buy products and/or packaging made from recycled materials?

Yes No

Which of the following products that you either purchase or sell contain recycled materials?

- Primary packaging that you use to sell your products
- Secondary packaging that you use to sell your products
- Tertiary Packaging that you use to sell your packaging
- Your products
- Other items which you purchase (e.g. office stationary & supplies, building materials such a bollards etc.)
- None of the above

How many 12 SKUs has at least some packaging that is made from recycled material?

12

Please indicate the accuracy of this response.

High

If you do not currently use recycled materials in any of your packaging, please indicate why:

- Cannot find a supplier who provides recycled materials
- We cannot use recycled materials in contact with our product
- Cost is prohibitive
- Other (please specify)

Please specify

PP5 (BOPP) sleeves for fresh herbs are made from food grade virgin material.

- None of the above

Supporting Evidence

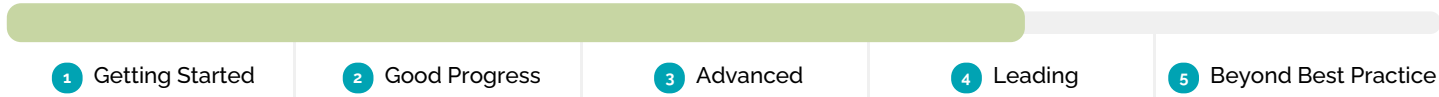
Plastic packaging containing recycled content increased by another 3% to 89% in 2023. No coloured PP5 plastics were sold in 2023. A maximum volume of 22 tonnes of virgin PP5 & PS6 plastic were sold (allowing 2% virgin material in the recycled P5 product (as advised by suppliers).

89% of plastic packaging sent to consumers is recyclable through PDs collection schemes.

Your full response can be found towards the end of this document.

Criteria 4:

Recoverability: 4 Leading



How many of your 12 SKUs have all packaging components that are recoverable (i.e. recyclable or compostable) at end-of-life?

9

Please indicate the accuracy of this response.

High

How many of your 12 SKUs have separable components with mixed recoverability at end-of-life? (e.g. a jar that is recyclable with a lid that is not recyclable)

3

Please indicate the accuracy of this response.

High

How many of your 12 SKUs have been assessed in the Packaging Recyclability Evaluation Portal (PREP)?

2

If you use compostable packaging, please indicate the type(s) of compostable certification (if any):

- Certified home compostable (AS5810)?
- Certified industrial compostable (AS4736)?
- Certified compostable to another certification (i.e. not AS5810 or AS4736)?
- Compostable (not certified)?
- None of the above

How many of your 12 SKUs are not recoverable at end-of-life and must go to landfill? (i.e. not recyclable or compostable)

0

Have you investigated if there are any opportunities to use reusable packaging?

Yes No

If yes, how many of your 12 SKUs have packaging for which all components are reusable?

9

Please give an indication on the accuracy of this response.

High

Which of the following reusable business to business items did your organisation utilise during the previous 12 month period?

- Pallets
- Crates
- Drums
- Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs)
- Other (please specify)

Please specify

Business to Business packaging (nursery trays) are PP5 and returned for reuse as a closed loop system. 845 000 pots and trays were sterilised through our steam treatment system for reuse during the reporting period.

Your full response can be found towards the end of this document.

- None of the above

Tick all that apply - Was this reused:

Internally (between your organisation's sites & facilities)?

Externally (with other organisations such as suppliers or customers)?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Pallets | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Internal | <input checked="" type="radio"/> External |
| Crates | <input type="radio"/> Internal | <input type="radio"/> External |
| Drums | <input type="radio"/> Internal | <input type="radio"/> External |
| Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs) | <input type="radio"/> Internal | <input checked="" type="radio"/> External |
| Other (specified above) | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Internal | <input checked="" type="radio"/> External |

Does your organisation participate in any of the following closed-loop recovery programs/alternative collection systems for your packaging?

- Big Bag Recovery
- Terracycle
- Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)
- DrumMUSTER
- Other (please specify)

Please specify

All rigid PP5 packaging is recoverable through the PP5 return scheme.

- N/A (All our packaging is recovered through mainstream recovery systems)
- None of the above

Supporting Evidence

24 tonnes of PP5 and 22 tonnes of PS6 were returned to manufacturers for recycling in 2023.

Local customers can return PP5 to our retail outlet via the PP5 return program. For efficiency, we compile this with bulk nursery returns. If returned containers are clean we will sterilise for re-use rather than sending for recycling unnecessarily.

Your full response can be found towards the end of this document.

Criteria 5:

Disposal Labelling: 5 Beyond Best Practice

1 Getting Started

2 Good Progress

3 Advanced

4 Leading

5 Beyond Best Practice

How many of your 12 SKUs have labelling on-pack to inform the consumer of how to correctly dispose of the packaging?

12

Please indicate the accuracy of this response.

High

Which of the following labels does your company presently use?

- Australasian Recycling Label
- Mobius Loop/Recycling symbol
- Tidy man
- Written instructions
- Other (please specify)

Please specify

All products except for 1 range (sleeved herbs) are sold with tickets that have Tidy Man and written instructions for recycling. Some tickets have recycling instructions and mobius loop on front and back. All PP5 pots and tickets have mobius loop.

- None of the above

Supporting Evidence

Criteria 6:

On-site Waste: 4 Leading



Tick which of the following packaging materials you have on-site recycling programs for:

- Paper/cardboard
- Soft plastics
- Rigid plastics
- Timber
- Textiles
- Glass
- Metals
- Other (please specify)

Please specify

Greenwaste generated on site is stockpiled and composted.
 Paper, cardboard, plastics, metals all have recycling programs.
 Non-reusable timber pallets are collected by a small business for repurposing.

- All materials have recycling programs
- None of the above

Over the reporting period, how much of the waste your organisation generated on-site was diverted from landfill (was recycled, composted, reused or sent for energy recovery)?

75%

Please indicate the accuracy of this response.

Medium

Which of the following facilities are included in the above waste data?

- Offices
- Warehouses
- Stores

- Manufacturing Facilities
- Other (please specify)

Please specify

- None of the above

Supporting Evidence

Waste to landfill reduced by 20% to 42 Tonnes in 2023 from 2022. Since 2021 waste to landfill has reduced by 54% through a range of initiatives including recycling of paper, cardboard, soft plastics, Pp5 and P6 plastics and composting of all waste media and greenwaste.

Criteria 7:

Problematic Materials: 3 Advanced

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

Over the reporting period, which of the following activities did you undertake to help reduce the impact of litter?

- Conduct regular clean ups
- Participate in Business Clean Up Day
- Sponsor a clean up day
- Undertook a litter education campaign
- Other (please specify)

Please specify

Daily and weekly clean ups across the nursery site to keep tidy but also as part of BioSecure HACCP, NIASA and EcoHort accreditations.
Pohlman's employs a full time grounds person to maintain the property (approx. 200ha in total).

- None of the above

Please indicate which of the following problematic, unnecessary and single-use plastic packaging formats or materials your organisation has used over the last five years.

- Lightweight plastic shopping bags
- Fragmentable (e.g. oxo-degradable) plastics
- Expanded polystyrene (EPS) packaging for food and beverage service or retail fresh produce
- EPS loose fill packaging
- Moulded EPS packaging for white/brown goods or electronics
- Rigid polyvinyl chloride (PVC) packaging
- Rigid polystyrene (PS) packaging
- Opaque polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles
- Rigid plastic packaging with carbon black
- None of the above

Please indicate which of the following problematic, unnecessary or single-use plastic packaging formats or materials your organisation is actively working to phase out?

- Lightweight plastic shopping bags
- Fragmentable (e.g. oxo-degradable) plastics
- Expanded polystyrene (EPS) packaging for food and beverage service or retail fresh produce
- EPS loose fill packaging
- Moulded EPS packaging for white/brown goods or electronics
- Rigid polyvinyl chloride (PVC) packaging
- Rigid polystyrene (PS) packaging
- Opaque polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles
- Rigid plastic packaging with carbon black
- None of the above

Have you successfully phased out any of the above packaging formats or materials in the last 5 years?

- Lightweight plastic shopping bags
- Fragmentable (e.g. oxo-degradable) plastics
- Expanded polystyrene (EPS) packaging for food and beverage service or retail fresh produce
- EPS loose fill packaging
- Moulded EPS packaging for white/brown goods or electronics
- Rigid polyvinyl chloride (PVC) packaging
- Rigid polystyrene (PS) packaging

- Opaque polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles
- Rigid plastic packaging with carbon black
- None of the above

Supporting Evidence

PS6 punnets were phased out during 2023 with the full changeover of stock to occur in 2024. Replacement of PS6 plug trays with reuseable, recyclable PP5 trays is underway with the first 50-cell trays expected to arrive in Q2 2024.

Additional Information

- No additional information

Please use the space below to provide your feedback on your experience with this Annual Report

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

Plastic packaging containing recycled content increased again by 3% to 89% in 2023. No coloured plastics were sold in 2023. A maximum of 22 tonnes of virgin P5 & P6 plastic were sold (allowing 2% virgin material in the recycled P5 product (as advised by suppliers).

91% of plastic packaging sent to consumers is recyclable through PP5 collection schemes.

Your full response can be found towards the end of this document.

Describe any opportunities or constraints that affected performance within your chosen reporting period

We are closer to eliminating waxed cardboard although the trials have been delayed. The volume shipped in waxed cardboard reduced by 20% in 2023 to 47%.

We receive EPS boxes from interstate suppliers. These are collated until a sufficient number allow a truckload to be returned to a recycler in Brisbane.

Please use the space below to provide examples or case studies of exemplary packaging sustainability conducted by your organisation. The information provided in the boxes may be used directly in your public facing Annual Report and Action Plan. Submitted case studies might be used by APCO in the future to support other Members in achieving packaging sustainability.

Full Open Responses

Criteria 1 - Supporting Evidence

The Packaging Sustainability Strategy is endorsed by Senior managers, directors and board (Contained within Sustainability plan)

Packaging sustainability and waste initiatives are reported monthly to Management and Board meetings by Innovation and Special Projects Manager.

We actively engaged plastics suppliers in 2023 to eliminate PS6 materials.

PP5 punnets to be introduced in early 2024 as soon as PS6 stock is used up.

Prototype PP5 plug trays have been trialled with the first to be introduced in 2024 to replace PS6 single use plug trays.

Innovation Manager sat on a grower sustainability panel at Hort Innovation Peak Industry Body forum in November 2023.

We have promoted packaging sustainability and improvements in our catalogues and actively promote our sustainability initiatives to visitors and tour groups from universities and local schools.

Ad-hoc social media content to promote sustainability initiatives or items of interest.

Criteria 3 - Supporting Evidence

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91% of plastic packaging sent to consumers is recyclable through PP5 collection schemes.

P6 punnets contained recycled material however the percentage is unknown. These have been discontinued and replaced with PP5.

Business to Business packaging (nursery trays) are PP5 and returned for reuse as a closed loop system. 845 000 pots and trays were sterilised through our steam treatment system for reuse during the reporting period.

Waxed cardboard remains problematic however VISY are developing replacement cartons for current waxed

products. 17% of product is shipped in cartons. 47% of this is shipped in waxed cardboard (by weight), down from 67% in 2022. A further 1.4% of products are shipped with a plain cardboard sleeve to protect the product during transport. Recycled content of cardboard cartons and sleeves ranges from 53 to 100% with an estimated 88% from post-consumer content.

Criteria 4 - Please specify

Business to Business packaging (nursery trays) are PP5 and returned for reuse as a closed loop system. 845 000 pots and trays were sterilised through our steam treatment system for reuse during the reporting period.

Reusable plastic pallets are used for transport & storage on the nursery site.

Reusable pallets (Chep, Loscam, Aldi) are used B2B for customers whose product is delivered in cartons. IBC's are returned to suppliers where possible.

Criteria 4 - Supporting Evidence

24 tonnes of PP5 and 22 tonnes of PS6 were returned to manufacturers for recycling in 2023.

Local customers can return PP5 to our retail outlet via the PP5 return program. For efficiency, we compile this with bulk nursery returns. If returned containers are clean we will sterilise for re-use rather than sending for recycling unnecessarily.

Used agchem containers are sent to DrumMuster and unwanted chemicals are returned to ChemClear.

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

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