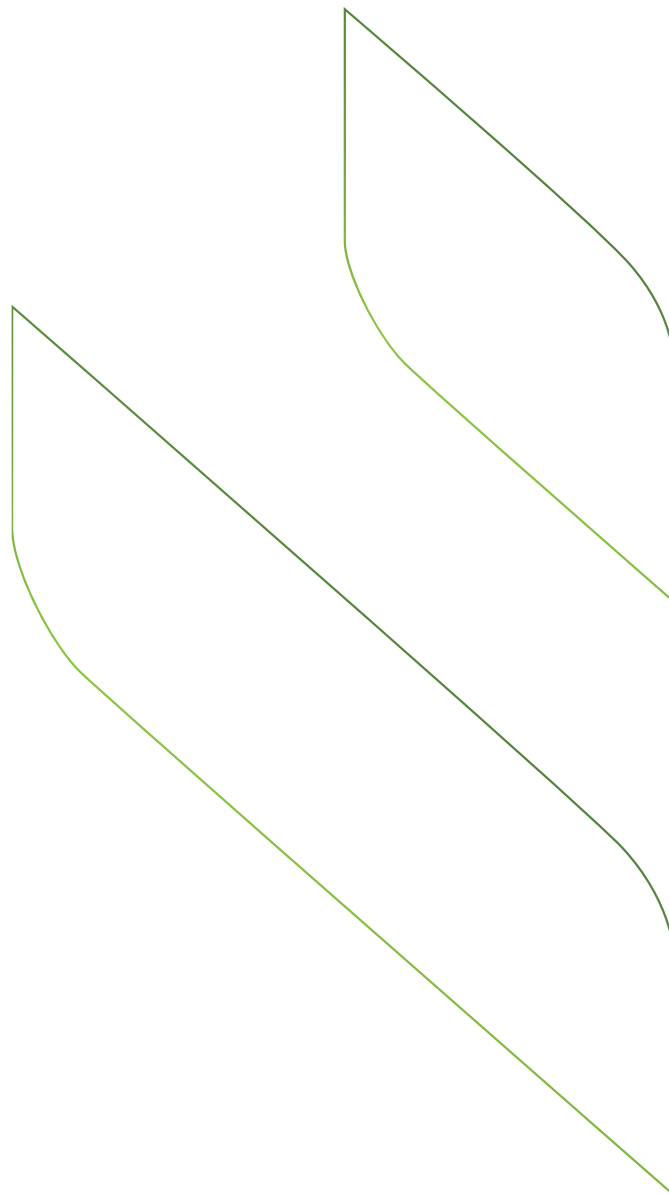


## Eco Friendly Packaging Tape Guide

Finding eco-friendly products to sell or use in your business is confusing. There are a lot of products that claim to be environmentally friendly or part of the circular economy but it can be hard to separate the truth from false claims, also known as greenwashing. Adding to this, we are beginning to see bans come through on problematic plastics on a state level.

As Australia's leading adhesive tape converter and wholesaler, [Stylus Tapes](#) is hoping to help you understand the different options that businesses have for eco friendly packaging tape.



## Eco Friendly Packaging Tape Guide

### Can packaging tape be eco friendly?

The traditional plastic packaging tape that we are familiar with can't be easily recycled in normal facilities and will take many years to break down in landfill. At the moment, most packaging tape is either disposed of by the user into a landfill bin or separated by the box recycler and sent to landfill or incinerated.

But don't worry - there are a lot of eco friendly alternatives coming to the market. In this guide we will take you through all the options.



### and the 2025 National Targets

APCO was created to educate and encourage adoption of the 2025 National Packaging Targets announced by the Australian Government. There are about 500 members of APCO across the packaging supply chain.

The 2025 National Packaging Targets apply to all packaging that is made, used and sold in Australia.

The targets, with the aim to be achieved by 31 December 2025 are:

- 100% reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging.
- 70% of plastic packaging being recycled or composted.
- 50% of average recycled content included in packaging (revised from 30% in 2020).
- The phase out of problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging.

To read more about the targets visit the [APCO website](#).

### Can tape meet 2025 National Packaging Targets?

Absolutely, all of the eco friendly tape in this guide meets the 2025 National Packaging Targets as they are either recyclable, com-postable or made from recycled content.

### Our Definition

*Eco friendly tapes are adhesive tapes that can be recycled or composted, and/or made from biobased or recycled materials.*

## Eco Friendly Packaging Tape Comparison

Eco Friendly Category	Backing Material	Adhesive	Replaces	Application & Features
<b>Compostable (AS4736)</b>				
Monta 860*	Clear PLA	Natural Rubber	Clear Plastic with Natural Rubber Adhesive	Suitable for recycled cartons & variation in temperature & humidity
Monta 860 LG	PLA with Green Print	Natural Rubber	Clear Plastic with Natural Rubber Adhesive	Suitable for recycled cartons & variation in temperature & humidity
<b>Recyclable Paper Tape</b>				
Ubis 4805*	FSC Paper	Natural Rubber	Plastic with Natural Rubber Adhesive	Suitable for recycled cartons & variation in temperature & humidity
Ubis 4800*	Paper	Hotmelt	Plastic with Hotmelt Adhesive	Medium weight packaging
Ubis 4850	Reinforced Paper	Hotmelt	Plastic with Hotmelt Adhesive	Heavy weight packaging
Ubis 4801*	Reinforced FSC Paper	Hotmelt	Plastic with Hotmelt Adhesive	Heavy weight packaging
Stylus 280A	Paper	Acrylic	Plastic with Acrylic Adhesive	Light weight packaging
<b>Recycled Plastic Tape</b>				
Stylus PET119	Post-Consumer Recycled PET	Natural Rubber	Clear Plastic with Natural Rubber Adhesive	Suitable for recycled cartons & variation in temperature & humidity
<b>Recyclable Water Activated Tape</b>				
Stylus 230*	FSC Paper	Water activated vegetable starch	Plastic	Medium weight packaging & Tamper Evident
Stylus 240 Reinforced*	Reinforced FSC Paper	Water activated vegetable starch	Plastic	Heavy weight packaging & Tamper Evident

\* Can be custom printed

## Types of Eco Friendly Packaging Tape

### Kraft Paper Tapes

Our Kraft Paper Tapes can be recycled along with cardboard cartons and are suitable for heavy duty packaging.

Some of our paper tapes are FSC Certified meaning that the paper and roll cores have been sourced from responsibly managed plantations.

For heavy duty packaging the paper is reinforced to give the tape more strength. These appear as straight lines and are visible along the tape.

Paper tape can be mostly recycled, along with the cardboard boxes it may be stuck to. During the pulping process the small amount that isn't recyclable such as adhesives or the reinforcement float to the top and are skimmed off. Importantly, it doesn't contaminate the process and prevent cardboard and paper from being recycled.

See the Stylus range of [Eco Friendly Paper Tapes](#).



### Water Activated Paper Tape

Water Activated Tape (WAT) does not stick until it is activated by water, using a dispenser.

WAT tape has been around for many years and recently regained popularity, partly because it's the tape that Amazon uses to seal its boxes. Two advantages to WAT tape is that the residue that it leaves means it's a tamper evident seal and it can be more affordable than other eco friendly tapes.

Stylus currently has two types of WAT Tape; [Smartape 230 Plain Kraft Tape](#) and [Smartape 240 Reinforced Kraft Tape](#).



## Types of Eco Friendly Packaging Tape

### Compostable Packaging Tape

Compostable tapes are made from bio-based renewable materials, which have been tested and certified for biodegradation in an industrial composting facility environment.

They are considered to be an effective eco friendly alternative to plastic film, especially for packaging applications when a clear film is preferred.

When buying a compostable tape, make sure that they are certified by a credible third party to adhere to international standards. Our compostable tape called Monta 860, made from PLA has been certified by TUV

Austria for meeting the requirements on compostability in an industrial setting and meets the following standards: EN 13432 09-2000, ASTM D6400-23, AS 4736-2006 and ISO 17088:2021.

Not only can compostable tapes be used for sealing cartons, but they are suitable for sealing compostable bags and films and for bundling compostable items such as flowers and garden waste.

See the Stylus range of [Compostable Packaging Tapes](#).



*There is a growing list of products that claim to be biodegradable. All compostable plastics are biodegradable, but not all biodegradable plastics would be considered compostable.*

*Of particular concern are oxo-degradable products that involve the addition of an additive during the manufacturing process. Oxo-degradable plastics quickly fragment into smaller and smaller pieces, called microplastics, but don't break down at the molecular or polymer level like compostable plastics. The resulting microplastics are left in the environment indefinitely.*

## Types of Eco Friendly Packaging Tape

### Recycled / Recyclable PET Tape

Recycled plastic tapes are tapes made from recycled materials, eliminating the use of virgin plastic. This tape meets the target for the 2025 National Packaging Target of '50% average recycled content in all packaging'. The Target specifies that the plastic must be Post-Consumer Recycled (PCR) which means it must be recycled from waste generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities.

PET Recyclable tapes are made from materials that are more easily and viably recyclable than existing tapes. Stylus 119 is made from PCR PET which has the potential to be recycled with other packaging made from similar material.

See the Stylus range of [Recycled plastic tape](#).



### Custom printed packaging Tape

*Want to print on eco-friendly tape?*

The following products are available to be printed with logos or specific messages to meet customer requirements.

- Monta 860 PLA Compostable tape with natural rubber adhesive
- Ubis 4800 Paper Tape with hot melt adhesive
- Ubis 4801 FSC reinforced paper tape with hot melt adhesive
- Ubis 4805 FSC paper tape with natural rubber adhesive

[Learn more](#) about our custom printed tape range and how to order.





## Adhesive Tape Experts

We hope this guide has helped but we know that finding eco friendly products can be overwhelming. If you would like to speak to an adhesive tape expert to discuss the best option for your clients or business then we would be happy to help, just [contact us](#) today.

Stylus Tapes is excited to lead Australia's eco and environmentally friendly adhesive tape category.

We are Australia's and New Zealand's leading adhesive tape specialist, wholesaler and converter with extensive nationwide warehouse facilities. We provide expert knowledge, supply competitively priced innovative products and are committed to a sustainable future.

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#### Disclaimer:

All the information contained in this guide is given in good faith for guidance only & not specification purposes. The Purchaser shall be responsible for determining the suitability of the product for their purposes.