



Afera Flagship Sustainability Project — Quarterly Update Report

Executive Summary

This quarter delivered strong progress across all pillars of Afera’s Flagship Sustainability Project: **WS1 Calculation Methods**, **WS2 Waste Management**, and **Communications**.

WS1 advanced both the practical uptake of TACK (Tape and Adhesives Calculation Kit) – the Product Carbon Footprint (PCF) Calculation Tool and the technical roadmap for TACK v2.0.

WS2 focused on recyclability classifications, PPWR implications, and design for recycling (DfR) considerations for tapes and release liners, with coordinated advocacy and data-gathering efforts underway.

Communications strengthened Afera’s external visibility, expanded sustainability content, and advanced the redesign of the key website sections to support broader member adoption.

WS1	WS2	Communications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive feedback on extended TACK demos from 3 member companies and strong member interest in additional demos TACK v2.0 scope confirmed with major methodological enhancements Growing need for converter-focused training and clearer guidance identified Consensus on TACK’s supporting role in EPD data generation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPWR advocacy expected to clarify release liner status Extraction of key information from the newest draft of DfR Guidelines – Understanding the impact on PVC tapes, Paper-based tapes & plastic tapes (non-PVC), adhesives, etc. Composite waste recycling remains technically constrained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated sustainability and PPWR content on the website Publication of Afera’s PPWR commentary in <i>Packaging Europe</i> Redesigned TACK public overview (including a detailed FAQ section and TACK user logos) and members-only areas Updated section on sustainable release liner management

WS1 — Calculation methods

Work under WS1 progressed on two fronts: expanding the use of TACK among members and advancing the development of TACK v2.0. In addition to over 30 Afera and IVK member companies already using the tool, 3 companies completed **extended demonstrations of TACK**, all reporting positive experiences. Other companies have requested demos too, indicating growing confidence and interest across the membership.



The **scope of TACK v2.0** was reviewed and confirmed with Sphera, setting the foundation for a more robust and comprehensive methodology. The updates will include:

- Update of background data from Sphera LCA database
 - Update of mapping of some raw materials
- Incorporation of new
 - Raw materials for adhesives
 - Generic adhesives/primers/impregnants recipes
 - Recycled materials for backings
 - Packaging materials
- Update of TfS compliance to latest version
- Implementation of mass balance checks
- Improvement of
 - Report
 - User manual

Members also highlighted the need for **clearer guidance** on incorporating solvent recovery into calculations, as well as training modules tailored to converters—particularly those working with multilayer constructions or partial manufacturing processes. Packaging allocation challenges, such as slitting waste and interleaf materials, were raised and will be addressed in upcoming documentation.



Coordination with FINAT and other associations will be revisited later in 2026 to ensure cross-industry alignment.

The **timeline for TACK v2.0** remains on track, with final incorporation planned for April 2026, followed by review and verification in May and a **June 2026 launch**. A webinar will accompany the release to walk members through the updates.

Interest in **Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)** continues to rise, particularly in construction, with emerging requests in electronics and automotive. A shared understanding emerged that, because TACK is intentionally designed as a **cradle-to-gate** calculation tool, it can only support – and not fully generate – EPD-compatible data, given the **cradle-to-grave** requirements of **EN 15804**. A phased approach was agreed, and Afera will organise a discussion with Sphera to explore options for generating EN 15804 compatible outputs or developing an EPD support module.



WS2 — Waste management

WS2 focused on recyclability classifications and regulatory interpretation this quarter. Updated guidance on cardboard recycling has significant implications for tape products. PVC packaging tapes now fall into the **red category**, effectively signalling a de facto ban due to technical and cost barriers in recycling mills.

Paper-based tapes and non-PVC plastic tapes remain in the **green category**, though plastics may still be removed during the recycling process, potentially affecting recyclability scores. Reinforced paper tapes containing non-paper fibres are **classified as yellow** because of contamination risks. Adhesive classification remains unresolved, with pressure-sensitive adhesives presenting challenges in meeting the “ring & ball” softening test (68°C minimum).



These developments prompted discussions on revising adhesive-related footnotes and **preparing industry proposals for CEN working groups**. Members were encouraged to contribute test data demonstrating screenability to support evidence-based revisions.

Advocacy efforts continued through the joint **Afera–FINAT–CELAB taskforce**, which sought clarification from the European Commission on the status of release liners under the PPWR. Although the Commission declined a meeting, it confirmed that release liner will be addressed in the upcoming guideline update, expected **by March 2026**. Early indications suggest that industrial use release liner will be exempt from the packaging definition, while consumer tape products with liners may be considered packaging and therefore subject to recyclability assessments, declarations of conformity, and full PPWR compliance from 2030.



Design for recycling (DfR) considerations for release liners were also reviewed. Glassine and CCK liners remain in the **green category** when silicone content is below 4% and total non-paper content is below 10%. In contrast, PE-coated liners, with non-paper content around 30–33%, fall into the **red category** and will require further evaluation and coordinated advocacy. Afera will collect additional testing data and engage with producers to align positions.

Beyond packaging, work continued on broader tape waste streams. DfR criteria for **surface protection films** under **EN 18120** are progressing, with the next revision expected in late 2026 or early 2027. Afera will prepare proposals supported by real test data. **Composite tape waste** remains a challenge due to mixed materials; current extrusion-based methods are only suitable for PET liners without PVC contamination, underscoring the need for improved sorting and processing technologies.

Communications

Communications this quarter focused on strengthening Afera's digital presence and expanding the visibility of its **sustainability and regulatory work**. The website's section on [sustainable release liner management](#) was updated to reflect the latest technical and regulatory developments, and several new articles were published to support member understanding of PPWR impacts, including a [public news item on the release liner advocacy letter](#) (with the full letter available to members) and newly



developed [decision trees to guide PPWR interpretation](#). Work is also underway to refine the separation between public and members-only content to ensure clarity and appropriate depth for each audience.

A major visibility milestone this quarter was the publication of an Afera commentary in *Packaging Europe*, titled "[How will the PPWR affect the adhesive tapes industry?](#)". As one of the leading platforms in the packaging sector, **Packaging Europe** offers broad reach across brand owners, converters, recyclers, and policymakers. The article provides a clear, accessible explanation of PPWR implications for adhesive tapes and has significantly increased **Afera's external visibility and credibility** on regulatory topics.

Significant progress was also made on redesigning the [TACK section of the website](#). A new public overview page now presents **TACK's purpose, features, FAQs, testimonials, and access request information** in a clearer, more engaging format. The members-only area is being reorganised to host recordings, demos, and training content, supporting growing interest in TACK and the **upcoming v2.0 release**. A consolidated [Knowledge Hub PDF now brings together Q&A content](#) in an accessible format. The updated website also features TACK user logos with further member approvals being actively gathered to complete the display.

Priorities for the next quarter

The work on the two AFSP workstreams keeps evolving. The planned maintenance release of TACK 2.0 incorporates recycled materials, new generic recipes for adhesives, primers and impregnants, general improvements to the reporting, interface and documentation and keeps the TfS compliance up to date. In parallel, we are exploring how we could further use the TACK learnings to facilitate the preparation of EPDs. On waste management, we are aligning information on DfR for adhesive films and continue exploring avenues to further facilitate the recycling of release liner.

We hope you can join us in the next meetings, so that we can further increase the collaboration to further advance the adhesive tape and film sector. Contact us at afsp@afera.com for more information.

Upcoming WS meetings

WS1: Calculation methods - Online	WS2: Waste Management - Online
11 June 2026, 10:00-12:00 (CET)	2 June 2026, 10:00-12:00 (CET)
3 September 2026, 10:00-12:00 (CET)	10 September 2026, 10:00-12:00 (CET)
19 November 2026, 10:00-12:00 (CET)	12 November 2026, 10:00-12:00 (CET)