Afera Flagship Sustainability Project — Quarterly Update Report

Executive Summary

WS1 finalised the launch of TACK v2.0 in Q3, now aligned with the latest TfS PCF guidelines and enhanced with new materials, mass-balance checks and reporting improvements, followed by a review of member requests. The workstream also advanced exploration of an EPD module for TACK, with Sphera presenting EN 15804+A2-compliant options and further discussions held at European Tape Week.

WS2 focused on overcoming persistent barriers to release-liner recycling i.e. contamination and fragmented volumes, identifying two priority pathways: expanding recycling routes through paper mills and identifying solutions to separate tape waste from liners.

Communications amplified Afera's sustainability agenda through a joint PPWR position paper with FINAT and the public launch of TACK v2.0, with next-quarter efforts set to further strengthen TACK's value proposition and highlight the benefits of separating tape waste from release liners.

WS1	WS2	Communications
• Launch of TACK v2.0 (alignment with the latest TfS PCF guidelines, background database revisions, new raw materials and formulations, recycled content options, mass balance checks, and report improvements) • Advanced exploration of an EPD module for TACK • Preparations for a new survey to gather member feedback	• Alignment on the future direction of the workstream • Identification of two priority pathways: 1. Expanding release liner recycling routes through paper mills 2. Identifying solutions to separate tape waste from liners	• Launch of TACK v2.0 at ETW 2026 in Porto • Positive feedback on TACK website information • Publication of two sustainability stories in leading media outlets 1. How well does chemical recycling work on adhesive tape waste? 2. The evolving landscape of EV battery technology and regulations: What this means for adhesive tapes?

WS1 — Calculation methods

Q3 marked the **formal launch of TACK v2.0**. The maintenance update delivered background database revisions, alignment with the latest TfS PCF guidelines (v 3.0 - December 2024) and PCF Data Model (v3.1 – September 2025), new raw materials and formulations, recycled content options, mass balance checks, and report improvements. Verification was completed and the updated version was **released to users on 30 July 2026**.

Following the launch, Afera and Sphera began **reviewing requests** regarding TACK functionality and user guidance. Key topics include batch spreadsheet uploads, regionalisation of datasets, and solvent recovery modelling. WS participants agreed that more time is needed for members to **evaluate TACK v2.0** before defining additional developments. A new survey has been issued to gather structured feedback.

The second major focus in Q3 was **continued exploration of an EPD module for TACK**. The group acknowledged growing market demand for EPDs, particularly in the construction sector. Sphera joined the WS meeting and presented options for extending TACK using a workflow similar to the current tool while generating **EN 15804+A2 compliant EPD outputs**.

The discussion covered:

- product scope,
- construction-sector focus,
- program operators,
- PCR selection,
- pilot EPD requirements,
- converter use cases,
- documentation needs and indicative costs.

See Sphera's presentation for detailed information.

Additional exchanges on the potential EPD module were held with Afera's Steering Committee during European Tape Week 2026 in Porto on 23 September, with additional discussions to follow.

The next WS meeting will focus on developing an Afera position paper on EPDs and reviewing the results of the new member survey.





WS2 — Waste management

The workstream meeting in this quarter was shortened and primarily focused on the **future direction of WS2**, opportunities to increase release liner recycling and the role Afera could play. After reviewing all activities completed to date, participants confirmed that the same **two principal barriers** continue to limit recycling of release liner within the tape industry: **contamination** and **small, fragmented volumes**.

The group mapped potential pathways to address these barriers and identified **two priority areas** where Afera could play a meaningful role:

1. Improving opportunities to recycle release liners through paper mills and existing recycling infrastructure.
2. Identifying solutions to separate tape waste from release liners and other adhesive-contaminated materials.

The intention is to begin work on these activities and aim for **reportable outcomes** by the end of next year, or earlier if sufficiently meaningful results are achieved.

Additional topics to be explored further at the next WS meeting include design for recycling and poly-coated release liners, recycling of tape waste, material pooling and pilot collection projects, regulatory access to existing paper collection systems, etc.

Communications

This quarter, Communications continued to spotlight Afera's sustainability and regulatory work. Afera published a joint position paper with FINAT on the treatment of release liners under Regulation (EU) 2025/40 on Packaging and Packaging Waste (PPWR). The paper explains why **release liners used in self-adhesive products should not be considered packaging**, as they perform an essential technical function and form an integral part of the product.

Communications also advanced the visibility and accessibility of **TACK – The PCF Calculation Tool**. This included an expanded FAQ section, the addition of TACK user logos on the website and the publication of a sustainability story focusing on the development of **Digital Materials Passport (DMP) guidelines and the role of tools such as TACK** in meeting emerging regulatory and market requirements.

The **launch of TACK v2.0** was announced at **the 2nd European Tape Week in September 2026**, where Karla Pastor, Afera's Sustainability Project Manager, and Sreeparna Das, Sustainability Communications Consultant, showcased the strategic and operational value the AFSP delivers to members.

Two of **Afera's sustainability stories** were also published in leading media outlets: Sustainable Plastics and Fastner+Fixing Magazine



1. How well does chemical recycling work on adhesive tape waste?
2. The evolving landscape of EV battery technology and regulations: What this means for adhesive tapes?

In the next quarter, Communications will continue to further **amplify TACK's value proposition**. Based on discussion in WS2, a key focus will also be on strengthening awareness regarding the **operational and potential economic benefits of separating tape waste from release liners**.

Priorities for the next quarter

With the release of TACK 2.0, our focus now shifts to expanding the tool's user base and ensuring its future development moves in the right direction. In parallel, we will assess the needs of members for EPDs and explore the feasibility of developing a tool to facilitate their calculation. The Waste management workstream will explore novel solutions for recycling paper release liners while strengthening collaboration and knowledge exchange with CELAB.

Contact us at afsp@afera.com for more information.

Upcoming WS meetings

WS1: Calculation methods - Online	**WS2: Waste Management - Online**
19 November 2026, 10:00-12:00 (CET)	12 November 2026, 10:00-12:00 (CET)

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