

# How NorthRiver Gave Their CFO a Single Source of Truth

A midstream energy company compressed their budget cycle from 4 months to approximately 4 weeks with SAP-native planning.

improving   
It's what we do.™





## When your FP&A team spends 4 months marshaling a budget process through Excel:

- You're not getting a strategic asset. You're getting data managers.
- Your best people are wasted on reconciliation instead of analysis.
- Late visibility into performance means fewer options to course-correct, and the business constantly operating in reactive mode.
- You're unable to answer the board's questions in a timely manner.

This was NorthRiver Midstream's reality.

### DECISION SPEED

Reactive, not proactive

### BOARD READINESS

Couldn't answer questions timely

### TEAM UTILIZATION

Analysts reduced to data managers



# The Problem

Their legacy SAP planning system (BPC) couldn't scale with NorthRiver. Its rigidity forced finance into offline processes and spreadsheet workarounds disconnected from operations.

## The impact:

- Finance made it happen anyway, but the 4-month budget cycle consumed the team
- They executed the process but couldn't explain variances or run scenarios
- Operational metrics remained disconnected from financial planning
- Their CFO couldn't get a clear view into performance to make informed decisions

NorthRiver needed planning infrastructure that matched the complexity of their business and market.

# The Solution

NorthRiver implemented Improving's xi.Planning Packages on SAP Analytics Cloud, deploying five integrated planning modules that replaced their fragmented environment with a unified platform.

<b>Revenue Planning</b> Integrated forecast models tied to operational drivers	<b>Cost Center Planning</b> Departmental budgets with automated rollups	<b>CapEx Planning</b> Project-based capital planning with approval workflows	<b>Workforce Planning</b> Headcount and compensation planning	<b>Financial Statements</b> Liquidity forecasting from consolidated inputs
---	--	---	--	---



# 01

## Integration Capability

- Connects S/4HANA & non-SAP data
- One source of truth
- Eliminates need for data reconciliation



# 02

## User-friendly & Collaborative Planning

- Real-time collaboration across teams
- Interactive planning sessions
- Everyone works from the same numbers



# 03

## Advanced Analytics & AI

- Built-in predictive forecasting
- AI-powered trend analysis
- Faster, data-driven decisions



# 04

## Cloud-Based Agility

- Access planning from anywhere
- Scales with your business
- No IT infrastructure overhead

## The Result

### BUDGET CYCLE

4 months → ~4 weeks

### VARIANCE ANALYSIS

From "we don't know" to explainable

### CFO VISIBILITY

Single source of truth across Finance and operations

The CFO stopped waiting for numbers. Dashboards now give a real-time view into business performance without requesting a report. When the board asks something unexpected? The data is there - consistent, current, trustworthy.

Meanwhile, the finance team transformed from data assemblers into the strategic asset the CFO needed. Instead of preparing Excel files and inputting data, they're doing the analysis that actually drives decisions.

**"For the first time, we have one version of the truth across Finance and the business. That's changed how quickly we can act."**

— Finance Leader, NorthRiver Midstream

## What Are xi.Planning Packages?

xi.Planning Packages are pre-built planning accelerators that run natively on SAP Analytics Cloud. Unlike third-party planning tools (Anaplan, Adaptive) that require rebuilding data connections, xi.Planning Packages integrate directly with SAP transactional data.

The result: faster implementation, lower maintenance, and planning models that stay synchronized with your ERP without manual intervention.

## Recognize This Pattern?

If your team spends more time marshaling data than analyzing it. If you're constantly in reactive mode. If you hesitate before the board asks a follow-up question.

**The solution exists. Improving makes it accessible.**

Ready to give your FP&A team their time back?  
Schedule a conversation about your planning environment.

[IMPROVING.COM](https://www.improving.com)

improving   
It's what we do.™

