

Aligning CIO and CFO priorities to drive energy transformation



In the energy industry, profitability hinges on navigating extreme volatility. Whether it's the spark spread in power generation, the refining margin in oil and gas, or the intermittent nature of renewable sources, financial outcomes are tied to complex, rapidly changing operational realities. In this environment, CIOs are pressured to modernize complex data landscapes, while CFOs must translate operational plans into immediate financial insights. Traditional, static forecasting is no longer sufficient. Forging a strong CIO-CFO alignment to adopt a dynamic, technology-driven approach is a necessity for resilience and growth.

According to Deloitte, **fewer than one-third** of CFOs report a strong partnership with their CIO built on mutual understanding. In energy organizations, where financial and operational decisions are tightly intertwined across capital planning, asset performance, and supply-demand balancing, this disconnect introduces significant risk. With **22% of CIOs** reporting directly to the CFO,

technology investments are increasingly evaluated through a financial lens, making measurable value a shared accountability.

This challenge is compounded by a complex application landscape. For many energy companies, a patchwork of legacy planning tools, disconnected operational systems, and business-specific applications drives up costs while increasing governance, cybersecurity, and data management risk. These fragmented environments slow access to timely insights for critical decisions in capital allocation, workforce planning, asset maintenance, and energy supply and demand forecasting.

The consequences are significant. CIOs can turn this challenge into a strategic opportunity by using Anaplan to build a stronger partnership with the CFO, improving how energy organizations plan, forecast, and respond to change while reducing application complexity, accelerating insight, and lowering costs.

Forging a CIO-CFO alliance on key priorities

CIOs must balance several priorities as they lead digital transformation. In energy, that balancing act is especially complex, and it is easy to overlook how closely the CFO's organization is tied to each one.

1

Consolidate applications, databases, and vendors

Despite years of rationalization efforts, many energy organizations are still working to reduce the number of applications they manage. For a utility company, this means replacing disjointed systems for demand forecasting, generation planning, and grid balancing. For a renewables operator, it means integrating meteorological data (like wind speed and solar irradiance) with asset performance and financial models to accurately predict output and revenue. Reducing dependence on disconnected planning tools improves governance, lowers risk, and accelerates insight delivery, outcomes that matter equally to CIOs and CFOs.



2

Cloud strategy and adoption

For mature energy organizations, the question is no longer whether to adopt cloud technologies, but how to maximize their financial return. In an industry where wholesale power prices, weather forecasts, and grid demand data from ISOs change by the minute, waiting on slow batch processing means opportunities are missed. A cloud-native platform that integrates these high-velocity data streams in near real-time is essential to maximizing cloud ROI and delivering true agility.

3 Manage system and infrastructure costs

Reducing total cost of ownership (TCO) remains a shared priority for CIOs and CFOs. A fragmented landscape of point solutions, legacy "black box" systems, or homegrown ETRM (energy trading and risk management) systems creates cumulative costs and erodes trust. Consolidating onto a single, transparent platform is the clearest path to simplifying cost management. It provides full auditability, allowing analysts to drill from a top-line revenue figure down to the specific power plant's output or a single PPA's performance, building financial confidence.



4 Speed digital transformation with future-proof investments

Faster platform deployment drives faster user adoption, which in turn accelerates time-to-value and enables quicker innovation cycles. As CIOs expand digital initiatives, they must prove their investments are built for the future. That means choosing platforms capable of near real-time scenario modeling to instantly evaluate changes for your business. What is the financial impact of a sudden heatwave that spikes electricity demand? What if a key transmission line goes down or wind generation drops unexpectedly? The ability to answer these questions in minutes, not days, transforms IT from a cost center into a strategic engine for resilience and growth, delivering the measurable value both the CIO and CFO demand.

The Anaplan scenario planning and analysis platform

The Anaplan platform is uniquely designed to solve the core challenges of the modern energy industry, creating the single source of truth needed for CIO/CFO alignment. It directly enables you to:



Connect the entire value chain: Seamlessly link fuel procurement costs, power generation asset performance, and transmission plans with financial outcomes like revenue from power purchase agreements (PPAs) and wholesale market sales.



Integrate complex variables: Model everything from multi-stage capital projects and asset maintenance schedules to dynamic supply-demand balancing and workforce planning in a single, connected environment.



Navigate market and operational volatility: Integrate thousands of data points from market feeds, weather services, and ISOs to make spark spreads, demand forecasts, and renewable output a living part of your financial model, providing a real-time view of financial impacts.

Anaplan coexists seamlessly with existing enterprise systems, surfacing new insights from existing data. It creates what both the CIO and CFO need most: a single, shared source of truth for enterprise-wide planning, budgeting, forecasting, and scenario analysis.



SUCCESS STORY

Vena Energy unified planning across 300+ entities, delivering **80% faster consolidations** and improved investment visibility.

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SUCCESS STORY

A large energy provider achieved a **90x increase in forecast frequency**, enabling faster response to price volatility and more accurate purchasing decisions.

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SUCCESS STORY

Polarium accelerated planning with **85% faster strategic planning** and **50% faster financial close**, improving decision-making and speed at scale.

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SUCCESS STORY

Woodside Energy reduced scenario modeling time **from 2 days to under 1 hour**, enabling faster decisions and greater agility in volatile energy markets.

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About Anaplan

Anaplan is a leading AI-driven scenario planning and analysis platform designed to optimize decision-making in today's complex business environment so that enterprises can outpace their competition and the market. By building connections and collaboration across organizational silos, our platform intelligently surfaces key insights — so businesses can make the right decisions, right now.

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