

## Bringing Cloud Financials to the Green Building Movement

International Living Future Institute



### Challenges

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The International Living Future Institute (ILFI) is a nonprofit that certifies buildings, products, and communities to help organisations communicate their commitment to a healthier world. Its mission is to inspire, lead, and support the transformation toward socially just, culturally rich, and ecologically restorative communities. To advance this mission, ILFI offers not only certifications, but a full range of green building programmes and services – including consulting, conferences, and book and magazine publishing.

“As ILFI expanded, we wanted to automate our financial processes and gain real-time visibility across the organisation, rather than requiring managers to wait for me to send them reports,” shared Tom Bland, ILFI’s CFO. “We considered a number of different accounting and finance solutions, but they didn’t have the cloud-based features we needed to support our complex operations across several locations and very diverse lines of business. Sage Intacct, on the other hand, is well-suited to our requirements.”

### Solutions

## Programme Visibility Improves Operational Decisions

Working with Sage Intacct partner, Revolution Accounting, the Institute replaced its outdated accounting software with Sage Intacct’s cloud-based financial management solution. Revolution helped ILFI’s finance team to leverage the system’s dimensions capabilities in order to capture useful business context around each financial transaction, such as the relevant programme, grant, location, department, employee, customer, or vendor. As a result, they finally have accurate programme and grant visibility, and can slice and dice the organisation’s financial data for deeper reporting and analysis, drilling down to individual invoices as needed. Revolution used Sage Intacct to build custom dashboards for ILFI’s CEO, CFO, controller, programme managers, and even the board of directors. These include high-level key performance indicators for the entire organisation, as well as detailed financial and operational metrics that are specific to each stakeholder, such as year-to-date earned income, staff utilisation, equipment expenses, professional fees, conference occupancy rates, or actuals-to-budget comparisons for their department, programme, or grant.



### Company Overview

The International Living Future Institute (ILFI) is a hub for visionary programmes, offering global strategies for lasting sustainability. The nonprofit partners with local communities to create grounded and relevant solutions, including green building and infrastructure solutions on scales ranging from single-room renovations to neighbourhoods or whole cities.

### Executive Summary

#### Results with Sage Intacct:

- Detailed visibility into nonprofit programmes
- Ability to scale complex operations
- Efficient project reporting
- Software paid for itself in <8 months

"In the beginning of the year, we were behind on several KPIs related to a particular line of business, but thanks to Sage Intacct, we could instantly see that the group needed to make staffing and software changes to get back on track. Now, they've turned things around and are actually ahead of budget expectations," said Bland. He also shared that ILFI's newfound transparency saves time in the grant application process, because the development manager can find all the data she needs right in Sage Intacct and monitor how each revenue stream is doing – e.g. funds coming in from foundations, individual donors, conference sponsors, or institute members.

### Results

## Automated Processes Ensure Efficient Scale

In addition, ILFI transformed its day-to-day and monthly financial processes. "Before we had Sage Intacct in place, we had no way to do true project accounting. We spent hours every month manually looking at time clock data to check hours spent on different grant deliverables or consulting projects," noted Bland. "With Sage Intacct's robust project accounting capabilities, our employees' time is tracked right in the system, and we easily capture all the activity detail we need for project and programme reporting." In addition to implementing these time-tracking improvements, Revolution integrated the Nexonia app from the Sage Intacct marketplace for advanced expense reporting – ensuring that employee expenses automatically flow into the right dimensions in Sage Intacct.

"Previously, we did all of the Institute's invoicing manually in Excel, re-entered the invoice data separately into both Salesforce and our previous accounting system, and then had to do reconciliations to make sure everything was correct across systems," added Sandy Allen, ILFI's controller. "Now, we're able to produce invoices directly from Sage Intacct, and can effortlessly monitor our A/R agings and send out collections reminders as needed, which has improved the organisation's cash flow."

Bland concluded, "We're just getting started, and we're confident that Sage Intacct will be able to scale with us as ILFI continues to grow. The team at Revolution is great – they've continued to streamline our financial workflows and answer any questions that come up."

*“During our monthly operations meetings, everyone's able to look at their personalised Sage Intacct dashboards and see what's going on in their part of the organisation at that moment. It's increased accountability across the team, and our CEO always knows if we're on track with revenues and expenses. She can spot problems early on, and ask the right questions of a specific department or programme to help resolve them quickly.”*



**Tom Bland**  
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