



RAISING THE STANDARD

Material management is no longer measured against internal benchmarks alone. External expectations, cost pressures, and operational demands are raising the bar for performance. As a result, manufacturers are placing greater emphasis on how materials are handled across operations, not just where they end up. This shift is driving more disciplined processes and a higher level of accountability. This edition explores how these rising standards are shaping more consistent, measurable performance.

INDUSTRY INSIGHT

Material management is beginning to shift earlier in the operational process. Rather than addressing waste at the point of disposal, more manufacturers are evaluating materials at the point of generation. This upstream approach allows teams to identify inefficiencies sooner, reduce handling complexity, and avoid reactive decision making later. It also creates more flexibility in how materials are managed, particularly when timing, storage, or logistics constraints are involved. As this shift continues, material decisions are becoming more integrated into day-to-day operations, rather than treated as an isolated downstream function.



STRATEGIC PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: RXO

RXO, formerly Coyote Logistics, brings a broad range of freight and supply chain capabilities to the IWS network. With expertise spanning truckload, rail, bulk transport, tankers, and warehousing, RXO supports small to mid-sized businesses across a wide range of industries, helping manage complex logistics needs with flexible, tailored solutions.

RXO plays a critical role in executing time-sensitive and often complex material movements. Their deep understanding of the truck market, combined with a highly responsive and accessible team, allows them to adapt quickly to changing conditions and deliver solutions with confidence. Whether coordinating multi-modal shipments or handling urgent requests, their approach is rooted in reliability, speed, and clear communication.



One example includes coordinating a non-refrigerated shipment from Missouri to Canada under tight constraints, a request that required creative problem solving and precise execution. RXO's ability to navigate these types of challenges ensures materials move efficiently, supporting both operational performance and broader reuse strategies.

EARTH MONTH EACH APRIL



Earth Day is a reminder that small, collective actions can create meaningful impact. Each year, communities across the country organize cleanups and environmental events that make it easy to get involved. Consider organizing a cleanup with your team, colleagues, or family. Even a small event in a nearby park, around your facility, or within your neighborhood, can make a difference. It's also an opportunity to bring people together around a shared purpose.

For those looking to join an existing event, resources like [EarthDay.org](https://www.earthday.org) offer a searchable map of local opportunities. Participating in even one event can create a positive impact both for the planet and your community.