FINOPS · TEMPLATE

The 30-Day Cloud Cost *Cleanup*

KAANSYSTEMS.COM/LIBRARY/30-DAY-CLOUD-COST-CLEANUP · MAY 30, 2026

ABOUT THIS TEMPLATE

A four-week plan for cutting cloud waste: inventory, eliminate, right-size, commit. Typical recovery is 20-40% of monthly spend, no application changes required.

THE TEMPLATE

Below is the weekly checklist. Each row is a single action with a clear "done" state. Run through it sequentially.

Week 1: Inventory

- Tagging audit complete; untagged resources flagged
- Cost-by-service top-10 list produced
- Cost-to-workload mapping complete; orphan workloads identified

Week 2: Eliminate

- All idle EBS volumes deleted (after snapshot)
- All unattached EIPs released
- Snapshots older than retention policy deleted
- Load balancers with zero traffic for 30+ days investigated or deleted
- AMIs / ECR images outside retention deleted
- Dev environment shutdown schedules in place

Week 3: Right-size

- Compute Optimizer recommendations triaged
- EC2 right-sizings rolled out (10+ instances)
- RDS gp2 → gp3 migrations complete
- Lambda memory tuned on top-spend functions

- ARM migration assessed for compatible workloads

Week 4: Commit

- Savings Plan signed for steady-state EC2/Fargate/Lambda
- RDS RIs purchased for steady-state databases
- Spot adopted for batch / interruptible workloads
- Month-over-month spend reduction confirmed

HOW TO USE IT

Run the cleanup quarterly, not once. The work compounds in both directions: environments accumulate waste, and your team forgets which knobs they turned. A 30-day cleanup every Q1 and Q3 keeps the bill close to its true workload cost.

Document the savings. Cost reductions get forgotten faster than cost increases. A one-page memo per cleanup, with the before/after numbers and the specific actions taken, builds the institutional memory that lets the next cleanup go faster.

The hard part is never the technique. It's getting four weeks of focused work on a problem that doesn't show up in product roadmaps.