

Smart Energy Management in Nigeria: Implementing IoT and AI for Sustainable Urban Development

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Abstract. This article explores the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) in improving renewable energy management within urban development in Nigeria. With the global shift towards sustainable living, many urban areas are upgrading their infrastructure to be more environmentally friendly. This transition involves advancements in waste management, increased renewable energy generation, and integration of modern technologies to optimise energy systems. A key focus of this research is the importance of effective policies in addressing challenges within the energy, transportation, and building sectors. The document emphasises collaboration among municipal authorities and stakeholders to optimise clean energy deployment, making cities smarter and more sustainable. The Smart Green Energy (IoT-SGE) system is central to this discussion, as it employs IoT technology for precise energy usage regulation through continuous monitoring and secure communication. The integration of AI allows the system to learn and adapt over time, significantly enhancing energy management efficiency.

The article provides insights into best practices and frameworks for advancing smart cities with improved renewable energy management by examining various studies and practical applications. It also analyses successful case studies from global smart cities, demonstrating how innovative strategies can lead to sustainable urban growth. This research aims to outline a comprehensive strategy for implementing smart energy management systems, fostering a more sustainable future for urban areas in Nigeria.

Keywords: Smart Energy Management; Artificial Intelligence; Internet of Things; Renewable Energy; Sustainable Urban Development; Smart Cities; Energy Efficiency.

INTRODUCTION

The increasing urbanisation and the consequent rise in energy consumption have necessitated a shift toward sustainable energy management practices. As cities evolve into smart urban environments, integrating advanced technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative approach to optimising energy use. According to [1], smart energy management systems that leverage IoT and AI technologies can significantly enhance the efficiency of energy distribution and consumption, leading to more sustainable urban

living. The concept of smart cities encompasses using technology to improve residents' quality of life while minimising environmental impacts. The integration of renewable energy sources plays a crucial role in this paradigm. Authors [2] highlight that renewable energy systems can provide cities with cleaner alternatives to traditional fossil fuels, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, managing these systems effectively poses challenges that require innovative solutions. Smart energy management systems facilitate real-time monitoring and control, enabling cities to

adapt to fluctuating energy demands and incorporate diverse energy sources [3].

Furthermore, the role of effective policy frameworks cannot be overstated. According to [4], strategic policies are essential for encouraging the adoption of smart energy solutions. They argue that collaboration between local governments, private sectors, and communities is vital for overcoming barriers to implementation and maximising the benefits of renewable energy technologies. This collaborative approach fosters technological innovation and empowers stakeholders to create a shared vision for sustainable urban development. In particular, the Smart Green Energy (IoT-SGE) system exemplifies how IoT and AI can be harnessed to manage energy use effectively. By continuously monitoring energy consumption patterns and enabling secure communication between devices, this system allows for adaptive management strategies that optimise energy usage based on real-time data [5]. Incorporating AI further enhances these systems by providing predictive capabilities that improve decision-making and operational efficiency. Through a comprehensive review of existing literature, this paper aims to elucidate the potential of IoT and AI in smart energy management, addressing both the opportunities and challenges associated with their implementation. It will also explore successful case studies from smart cities worldwide, offering insights into best practices for integrating renewable energy into urban infrastructures.

Literature Review

Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things in smart energy management have been the subject of extensive research in recent years. This section reviews key contributions from the literature, highlighting various methodologies, applications, and outcomes associated with implementing these technologies in urban environments. IoT technologies enable real-time data collection and monitoring, critical for effective energy management. According to [6], IoT devices facilitate continuous tracking of energy consumption patterns, identifying inefficiencies and optimising energy usage. These systems are particularly useful in residential settings, where smart meters can give users insights into their consumption habits, encouraging energy-saving behaviours.

Furthermore, [7] emphasises the role of IoT in enabling the integration of renewable energy

sources into existing grids. IoT technologies can help grid operators manage energy supply and demand fluctuations more effectively by providing real-time data. A noteworthy example is the work [8], which demonstrates implementing an IoT-based energy management system in a smart building. Their study revealed that integrating IoT technologies resulted in a 20% reduction in energy consumption, underscoring the effectiveness of these systems in enhancing energy efficiency. AI plays a vital role in analysing the vast amounts of data generated by IoT devices, enabling predictive analytics and decision-making. Authors [3] describe how machine learning algorithms can forecast energy demand based on historical data, weather patterns, and occupancy rates. This capability allows for better planning and resource allocation, ultimately reducing operational costs and improving energy efficiency. Research [9] further highlights the potential of AI in demand response systems. Utilities can dynamically adjust energy prices based on real-time demand by utilising AI algorithms, incentivising consumers to shift their usage to off-peak periods. This approach stabilises the grid and maximises using renewable energy sources during peak production times. Several smart cities worldwide have successfully implemented IoT and AI in their energy management strategies. For instance, Barcelona's smart city initiative incorporates IoT sensors to monitor energy usage across the city, leading to a reported 10% decrease in energy consumption [10]. This initiative showcases how data-driven decision-making can significantly enhance urban sustainability.

Similarly, Amsterdam has integrated smart grids with AI capabilities to manage its renewable energy resources effectively. Research [11] illustrates that the city's energy management system facilitates real-time monitoring and predicts energy production from renewable sources, allowing for more efficient grid operations. Despite the advancements in smart energy management, several challenges remain. A significant barrier is the interoperability of various IoT devices and systems. According to [12], achieving seamless communication between devices from different manufacturers is essential for the success of smart energy systems. Data privacy and security issues are paramount, as increased connectivity can expose systems to cyber threats [13].

Another challenge is the initial investment required for implementing smart energy management systems. Many municipalities struggle to

allocate the necessary funds for upgrading infrastructure, which can hinder the deployment of IoT and AI technologies [14]. This financial constraint underscores the need for supportive policies and incentives encouraging investment in smart energy solutions. The continued evolution of IoT and AI technologies presents numerous opportunities for enhancing smart energy management. Research [15] suggests that advancements in AI, particularly in deep learning, could lead to even more accurate predictive models for energy demand and supply. Furthermore, integrating blockchain technology with IoT and AI could enhance the security and transparency of energy transactions, paving the way for decentralised energy systems [16].

To maximise the potential of smart energy management, it is essential to foster collaboration among stakeholders, including governments, private companies, and research institutions. This multi-stakeholder approach can facilitate knowledge sharing and innovation, ultimately developing more effective and sustainable urban energy solutions. The review of related works highlights the transformative potential of IoT and AI in smart energy management. While significant progress has been made, challenges requiring concerted efforts from all stakeholders remain. By addressing interoperability issues, enhancing data security, and encouraging investment, cities can leverage these technologies to create more sustainable and resilient urban environments.

Authors [3] explore how green energy and the Internet of Things (IoT) might be combined to improve smart city infrastructures. In "IoT-enabled integrated system for green energy into smart cities," an extensive design and assessment technique for smart power systems in urban environments is presented. Through widespread monitoring and secure communications, the proposed Internet of Things-based Smart Green Energy (IoT-SGE) system seeks to control energy precisely, meeting the energy demands of smart cities while guaranteeing.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Integration of IoT in Smart Energy Management. Integrating the Internet of Things (IoT) in smart energy management systems represents a significant advancement in optimising energy consumption and enhancing the overall efficiency of urban infrastructures. IoT technology enables devices

and systems to communicate and share data in real time, facilitating informed decision-making and automated processes in energy management.

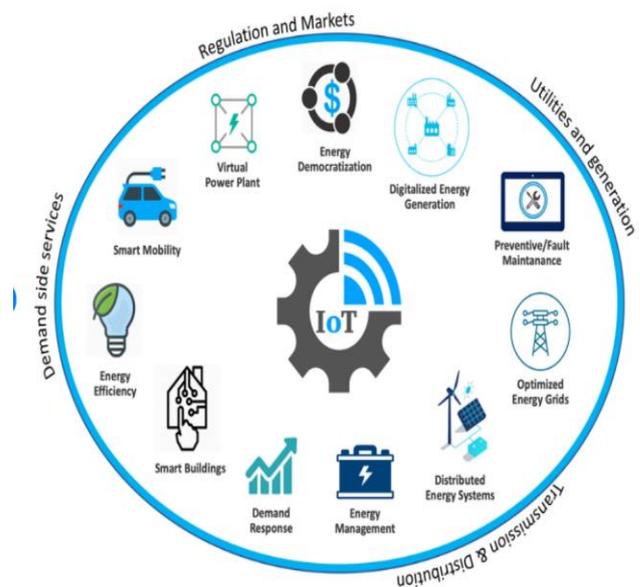


Figure 1 – IoT in Smart Energy Management

Real-Time Monitoring and Data Analytics. IoT devices, such as smart meters, sensors, and connected appliances, are crucial in real-time energy consumption monitoring. These devices collect vast amounts of data on energy usage patterns, environmental conditions, and system performance. According to [6], this data can be analysed to identify inefficiencies, predict peak demand periods, and implement corrective measures. For instance, smart meters allow consumers to monitor their energy usage in real time, empowering them to make informed decisions about their consumption habits.

Moreover, integrating IoT with advanced data analytics enables predictive maintenance and anomaly detection within energy systems. Authors [17] noted that predictive analytics powered by IoT data can foresee potential failures in energy infrastructure, allowing for timely interventions that reduce downtime and operational costs. This capability is particularly beneficial for utilities, as it enhances the reliability and stability of the energy grid.

Renewable Energy Sources Integration. Integrating renewable energy sources into existing energy systems is another critical area where IoT has a transformative impact. IoT technologies efficiently manage decentralised energy generation

from solar panels and wind turbines. Research [1] highlights that IoT can optimise the distribution of renewable energy by providing real-time data on energy production and consumption. This allows grid operators to balance supply and demand effectively, minimising reliance on fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For instance, smart grids equipped with IoT capabilities can dynamically adjust to fluctuations in renewable energy generation. By leveraging IoT sensors, utilities can monitor weather conditions and energy output from renewable sources, thereby enhancing grid resilience and sustainability [7]. The Internet of Things (IoT) is crucial in demand response programs that encourage consumers to modify their energy consumption during peak times. Utilities can communicate directly with consumers using IoT devices, providing real-time information on energy prices and demand levels. According to [18], this interaction fosters greater consumer engagement and promotes energy-saving behaviours. For example, smart thermostats can be programmed to adjust heating and cooling based on real-time pricing signals, leading to cost savings for consumers and reduced strain on the grid.

Integrating IoT in demand response initiatives also allows for more granular control over energy consumption. Authors [19] highlight that real-time data from IoT devices enables utilities to implement dynamic pricing models that reflect current demand and supply conditions. This approach not only encourages energy conservation but also enhances the overall efficiency of the energy system.

Despite the numerous benefits, integrating IoT into smart energy management systems poses several challenges. One significant barrier is the issue of interoperability among devices from different manufacturers. As [20] points out, seamless communication between diverse IoT devices is essential for creating a cohesive energy management system. The lack of standardised protocols can hinder the deployment and effectiveness of IoT solutions.

Moreover, data privacy and security concerns are paramount. With increased connectivity, IoT devices become vulnerable to cyber threats, potentially compromising sensitive consumer information and the integrity of energy systems [13]. Therefore, robust cybersecurity measures and regulations are crucial to safeguard against potential attacks.

Smart Green Energy Management. At the core of the Internet of Things-Smart Green Energy (IoT-SGE) method is the concept of managing energy resources in an eco-friendly manner. This approach aims to harness renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, to meet the energy demands of smart cities while minimising environmental impacts. By integrating IoT technologies, cities can create more efficient energy systems that reduce carbon footprints and enhance the overall quality of urban life.

Automated Control and Monitoring. The IoT-SGE framework enables automated governance across various urban domains, including smart living, mobility, environment, and economy. The system facilitates real-time monitoring and control of energy consumption through interconnected devices, allowing for optimised usage and reduced waste. Studies have shown that automated control mechanisms can significantly improve energy efficiency and operational effectiveness [3].

Technological Advancements in Smart Cities. The conversion of conventional cities into smart cities significantly depends on technological breakthroughs, including Artificial Intelligence and edge computing. IoT technologies are essential for monitoring energy usage, managing transportation systems, and adjusting lighting to enhance energy conservation [21]. These improvements enhance energy management and promote the sustainability of urban environments.

Implications of Policy for Energy, Transportation, and Sustainable Architecture

Effective policy frameworks are essential for the successful implementation of smart energy solutions. The study emphasises the role of smart meters in managing renewable energy sources, enhancing energy efficiency, and reducing waste [21]. Adopting electric vehicles (EVs) and intelligent transport systems in the transportation sector can alleviate traffic congestion and lower air pollution levels. Furthermore, Building Management Systems (BMS) that utilise IoT technologies can optimise energy consumption by adjusting ventilation, lighting, and electricity usage in real time.

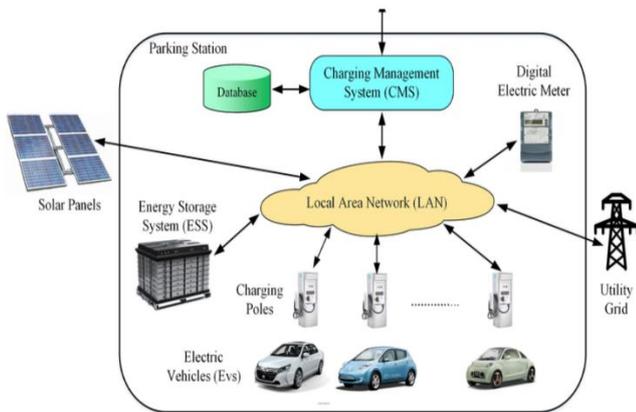


Figure 2 – Intelligent Parking and Electric Vehicles (EVs)

IoT-enabled smart parking solutions address urban congestion and limited parking availability. By streamlining parking management, these solutions enhance mobility within smart cities. Additionally, EVs reduce greenhouse gas emissions and urban energy consumption, especially when supported by favourable policies, including financial incentives and improved charging infrastructure [3].

Engagement of Local Governments and Stakeholders. The collaborative efforts of local governments and stakeholders play a vital role in developing smart cities. Engaging stakeholders can accelerate the implementation of smart energy solutions and address challenges effectively. The study underscores local governments should leverage stakeholder expertise to enhance energy management practices and foster sustainable urban growth [21].

Addressing Climate Change and Environmental Concerns. Concerns regarding climate change and environmental degradation are significant drivers of the smart city movement. The study emphasises that appropriate policies and strategies can aid in tackling global challenges such as CO₂ emissions and energy crises. Through automation and real-time data analysis, the IoT-SGE method optimises energy usage and enhances energy production and distribution management, contributing to sustainable urban ecosystems [3].

Secure Communications. Ensuring secure communication within the IoT network is essential for maintaining the integrity and reliability of energy management systems. Protecting sensitive data is critical for effective energy management and fostering public trust in these technologies [21].

Adaptive Energy Allocation. The IoT-SGE method allows for adaptive energy allocation based on real-time data analysis. Adjusting energy distribution to match current demands minimises waste and ensures efficient utilisation of resources. Such adaptability is crucial for meeting the dynamic energy needs of smart cities [3].

Enhanced Grid Management. Integrating IoT technologies also enhances grid management, allowing for more precise control over energy distribution. By identifying and addressing issues in real-time, cities can improve the reliability and efficiency of their power grids. This enhanced management is vital for successfully implementing smart energy solutions [21].

The IoT-SGE method exemplifies how integrating IoT and smart grid technologies can significantly enhance energy management in smart cities. By focusing on automated control, secure communication, and adaptive energy allocation, cities can harness renewable energy sources efficiently. Moreover, the collaborative efforts of local governments and stakeholders are essential for addressing urban challenges and accelerating the transition towards sustainable smart cities.

Future Scope of Research in Smart Energy Management and IoT Integration

Integrating the Internet of Things (IoT) in smart energy management is rapidly evolving, presenting numerous avenues for future research. This section outlines key areas that warrant further exploration to enhance the effectiveness of smart energy systems, promote sustainability, and address emerging urban challenges.



Figure 3 – Future Scope of Energy Management and IoT

Advanced AI Algorithms for Energy Optimization. Future research can focus on developing more sophisticated AI algorithms that leverage machine learning and deep learning techniques to optimise energy consumption and distribution. These algorithms can enhance predictive analytics, allowing for better energy demand forecasting and generation from renewable sources. Research [3] indicates that improved AI models can significantly enhance the efficiency of smart energy systems.

As cities increasingly adopt decentralised energy generation systems, such as microgrids and community solar projects, research should explore how IoT can facilitate integrating and managing these systems. Understanding how to coordinate decentralised resources with central grid operations efficiently

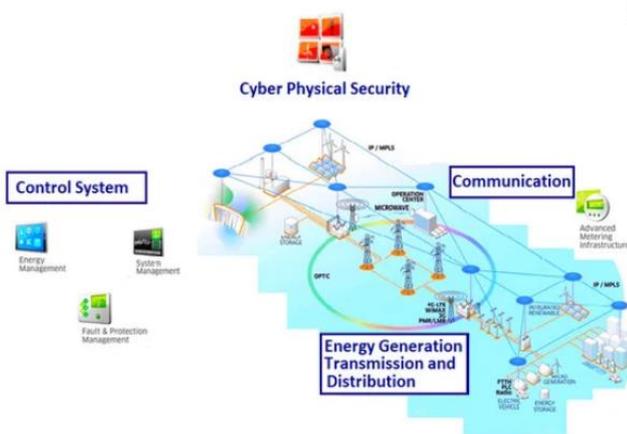


Figure 4 – Cybersecurity in Smart Energy Networks

Cybersecurity will remain a paramount concern with the growing number of connected devices in smart energy management systems. Future studies should focus on developing robust security protocols to protect against cyber threats and ensure data privacy. This includes investigating blockchain technology as a potential solution for securing communication and transactions in energy systems [13].

User-Centric Energy Management Solutions. Research should also explore user-centric approaches to energy management that empower consumers to engage actively in energy conservation and management. This could involve the development of applications and platforms that provide real-time feedback on energy consumption, enabling users to make informed decisions about their energy usage [8].

Policy Development and Implementation. Investigating the effectiveness of various policies and regulations that support smart energy management will be essential. Future research could analyse case studies from successful smart cities to identify best practices and tailor recommendations for different contexts, considering local socio-economic conditions [16].

Impact of Climate Change on Energy Systems. Understanding how climate change affects energy systems is crucial for developing adaptive strategies. Future research should focus on assessing the vulnerability of energy infrastructure to climate-related events and exploring how IoT technologies can enhance resilience and recovery efforts in extreme weather [15].

Integration of Transportation and Energy Systems. As urban mobility evolves, research should investigate the synergies between energy and transportation systems, particularly the role of electric vehicles (EVs) and smart charging infrastructure. Understanding how to optimise energy distribution for EV charging during peak and off-peak hours will be critical for managing urban energy consumption efficiently [9].

Environmental Impact Assessments. Future research should include comprehensive environmental impact assessments of smart energy initiatives. This involves measuring implemented technologies' benefits in reducing carbon emissions, energy consumption, and overall environmental impact, providing valuable stakeholder insights [2].

Knowledge gaps

Integration Strategies

Understanding Interoperability: There is a lack of comprehensive frameworks for integrating AI and IoT systems with existing energy infrastructure.

Data Standards: Inconsistent data formats and standards make it difficult to share information across platforms and stakeholders.

Data Analytics and Machine Learning

Skill Gaps: Many cities lack personnel with the expertise to analyse large datasets generated by IoT devices.

Algorithm Development: There's a need for tailored AI algorithms that can address specific

challenges in renewable energy forecasting and management.

Real-Time Monitoring and Control

Infrastructure Limitations: Current IoT infrastructure may not support effective real-time data transmission and processing.

Scalability Issues: Challenges in scaling IoT solutions across diverse urban environments hinder efficient energy management.

Security and Privacy Concerns

Cybersecurity Risks: Increased connectivity raises vulnerabilities; understanding the implications of AI and IoT in cybersecurity is crucial.

Data Privacy: There is a need for clearer data collection and usage policies, especially regarding personal information.

Policy and Regulation

Lack of Guidelines: Inconsistent regulations regarding the use of AI and IoT in energy management can create barriers to implementation.

Incentives for Innovation: Understanding what incentives can encourage investment in AI and IoT technologies for renewable energy management.

Community Engagement

Public Awareness: There is often a gap in understanding how AI and IoT can contribute to sustainable practices, necessitating better communication and education efforts.

Stakeholder Collaboration: Effective collaboration among government, private sector, and communities is often lacking, leading to fragmented efforts.

Economic Viability

Cost-Benefit Analysis: More comprehensive studies are needed to evaluate the economic impacts of deploying AI and IoT in renewable energy management.

Funding Models: Exploration of innovative funding mechanisms to support AI and IoT projects in the energy sector.

Long-Term Sustainability

Life Cycle Assessment: Understanding the environmental impact of AI and IoT technologies over their entire life cycle is essential for promoting sustainability.

Adaptability to Climate Change: Research on how AI and IoT can help cities adapt renewable energy

strategies to changing climate conditions is needed.

CONCLUSIONS

Filling these knowledge gaps requires collaboration among researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and communities to develop effective, sustainable solutions for renewable energy management in smart cities. The journey through various studies and analyses has illuminated the intricate relationship between smart cities and the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) for enhanced renewable energy management. This exploration underscores the critical role of emerging technologies in urban development while revealing cities' diverse strategies to navigate the complexities of sustainability and smart governance. Key findings from this exploration highlight the seamless integration of AI and IoT, essential for transforming urban areas into smart cities. This integration enables real-time data collection, analysis, and actionable insights crucial for effective renewable energy management. Moreover, innovations such as smart grids and smart meters enhance energy efficiency, reduce waste, and promote sustainable energy practices within urban settings. The shift towards sustainable transportation systems, including electric vehicles and smart traffic management, significantly reduces carbon emissions and alleviates congestion, aligning with eco-friendly urban goals.

The emphasis on green building practices further underscores the importance of energy-efficient infrastructure in minimising the carbon footprint. Smart monitoring systems are pivotal in achieving this goal. Engaging the public in the smart city transformation journey is essential for fostering inclusivity and ensuring the success of these initiatives. Public awareness and acceptance are key factors in adopting smart technologies and policies.

Finally, effective policy frameworks and collaborative governance models are necessary for creating an environment conducive to adopting and scaling smart city initiatives. These frameworks guide the complex interplay between technology and urban development.

These findings resonate with our initial discourse and provide a comprehensive view of the potential and challenges in achieving smart, sustainable

urban development. The insights gained from this exploration lay a strong foundation for continued inquiry and action towards realising smart cities that are technologically advanced, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of their residents.

Through the lens of AI and IoT, the possibilities for enhancing renewable energy management and achieving broader sustainability goals become increasingly clear, inviting further innovation in this dynamic field.

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