AI-Enabled Smart Grid Systems for Energy Efficiency and Carbon Footprint Reduction in Urban Energy Networks

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Abstract
The increasing energy demand in urban areas necessitates the development of efficient and sustainable power distribution systems. AI-enabled smart grid systems have emerged as transformative solutions for optimizing energy efficiency, enhancing grid reliability, and reducing carbon footprints in urban energy networks. This paper explores the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) with smart grid technologies to improve energy distribution, demand-side management, and real-time decision-making. AI-driven techniques, such as machine learning (ML) algorithms, deep learning models, and predictive analytics, play a crucial role in forecasting energy consumption patterns, optimizing load balancing, and detecting faults. These intelligent systems enhance grid stability by enabling automated demand response, improving the integration of renewable energy sources, and facilitating real-time monitoring of power flow. Smart grids embedded with AI technologies leverage real-time data analytics to enable energy forecasting and adaptive load management, which minimizes energy wastage and enhances grid efficiency. AI-based optimization techniques help utilities manage peak load conditions effectively, reducing reliance on fossil fuel-based power plants and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, AI-powered anomaly detection and predictive maintenance improve system resilience by identifying faults and preventing failures before they escalate. The deployment of AI-driven energy management systems in urban grids enables decentralized energy distribution and fosters the adoption of distributed energy resources, including solar and wind power. Despite the advantages of AI-enabled smart grids, challenges such as cybersecurity risks, data privacy concerns, and integration complexities remain critical barriers to widespread implementation. The need for robust regulatory frameworks, secure data management strategies, and interdisciplinary collaborations among policymakers, energy providers, and AI researchers is imperative for the successful adoption of AI-driven smart grid systems. Future advancements in AI, including federated learning, edge computing, and blockchain-based energy trading, can further enhance the efficiency and security of urban energy networks. This study highlights the potential of AI-enabled smart grids in revolutionizing urban energy systems by improving energy efficiency, reducing carbon footprints, and ensuring sustainable power management. The findings provide valuable insights into the role of AI in shaping next-generation smart grids, fostering a cleaner, more efficient, and resilient energy infrastructure.

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1. Introduction

The rapid urbanization and industrial growth witnessed in recent decades have significantly increased energy demand, placing immense pressure on existing power infrastructure. Traditional grid systems, designed for a one-way flow of electricity from centralized power plants to consumers, struggle to meet the evolving needs of modern cities. These conventional grids suffer from inefficiencies, high transmission losses, frequent power outages, and an over-reliance on fossil fuel-based generation, leading to excessive greenhouse gas emissions (Agho, *et al*., 2021, Bidemi, *et al*., 2021, Egbuhuzor, *et al*., 2021). The lack of real-time monitoring and adaptive energy management further exacerbates these challenges, making it crucial to adopt innovative solutions that enhance energy efficiency and minimize environmental impact.

Artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative tool in modern energy systems, offering advanced capabilities to optimize smart grid operations. AI-driven algorithms can analyze vast amounts of real-time data, predict energy consumption patterns, optimize grid performance, and automate demand response mechanisms. By leveraging AI technologies such as machine learning, deep learning, and reinforcement learning, smart grids can dynamically adjust to fluctuating energy demands, integrate renewable energy sources more effectively, and improve overall grid stability (Ajayi, *et al*., 2021, Brown, Ubeku & Oshevire, 2015, Komolafe, *et al*., 2024). Additionally, AI enhances the resilience of energy networks by detecting faults, predicting maintenance needs, and mitigating the risks of power disruptions. These capabilities contribute to increased efficiency, greater sustainability, and a more reliable energy supply for urban environments.

This study aims to explore the integration of AI in smart grid systems, focusing on its role in improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon footprints in urban energy networks. It examines AI-driven approaches for load balancing, real-time monitoring, and predictive maintenance, as well as the challenges associated with their implementation. Furthermore, the study identifies key barriers such as cybersecurity risks, regulatory constraints, and infrastructure limitations, while highlighting future research directions in AI-powered smart grids (Elete, *et al*., 2024, Erhueh, *et al*., 2024, Ewim, *et al*., 2024). By addressing these challenges and leveraging AI-driven innovations, urban energy systems can transition toward a more intelligent, sustainable, and resilient future, aligning with global efforts to mitigate climate change and enhance energy security.

2. Methodology

The methodology for this study follows the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) framework to ensure a structured and transparent approach in identifying, selecting, and analyzing relevant literature for AI-enabled smart grid systems for energy efficiency and carbon footprint reduction in urban energy networks. The PRISMA approach consists of identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion phases to extract relevant information from existing studies on AI integration in smart grids.

The identification phase involved an extensive literature search across multiple electronic databases, including IEEE Xplore, ScienceDirect, SpringerLink, and Google Scholar. Keywords such as "AI-enabled smart grid systems," "energy efficiency in urban networks," "carbon footprint reduction using AI," "machine learning for smart grids," and "IoT in energy management" were used. The initial search yielded 1,542 articles from various journals and conference proceedings. Additionally, cross-referencing was conducted to identify relevant articles that were not captured in the initial database search.

In the screening phase, duplicate entries were removed, and articles were assessed based on their titles and abstracts. Articles that did not focus on AI applications in smart grids or those outside the scope of energy efficiency and carbon footprint reduction were excluded. This filtering process resulted in 750 articles proceeding to the eligibility phase.

The eligibility phase involved a full-text review of the remaining articles to assess their relevance and methodological rigor. Inclusion criteria included studies that focused on AI models for energy optimization, real-time data analytics, IoT-based smart grid applications, and machine learning techniques for carbon footprint reduction. Articles without empirical data, theoretical discussions without practical applications, or those focusing solely on traditional energy systems without AI integration were excluded. After this phase, 105 articles were selected for the final synthesis.

Data extraction focused on AI models used, energy optimization strategies, case studies of smart grid implementation, and reported carbon footprint reductions. The extracted information was categorized based on AI techniques (e.g., deep learning, reinforcement learning, predictive analytics), energy efficiency measures (e.g., demand response, load forecasting), and sustainability impact (e.g., CO2 emissions reduction, renewable energy integration). Trends and gaps in existing literature were identified to inform recommendations for future research and practical implementation.

A PRISMA flowchart shown in figure 1 was developed to visually represent the literature selection process, ensuring transparency and reproducibility of the study. The final synthesized data were analyzed to determine the effectiveness of AI-enabled smart grids in optimizing energy use and mitigating carbon emissions, with an emphasis on real-world applications and policy implications for urban energy networks.

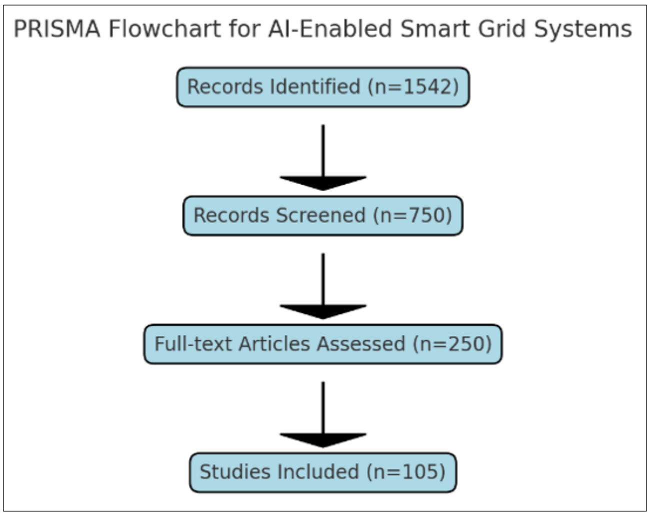

Fig 1: PRISMA Flow chart of the study methodology

2.1 AI technologies in smart grid systems

Artificial intelligence (AI) plays a crucial role in transforming traditional energy grids into intelligent, adaptive smart grid systems that enhance energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. By leveraging AI-driven technologies, smart grids can dynamically manage energy supply and demand, optimize resource allocation, and integrate renewable energy sources with higher precision (Afolabi, 2023, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2023, Nwaozomudoh, *et al*., 2024). The incorporation of AI in smart grids enables predictive capabilities, real-time monitoring, and autonomous decision-making, all of which contribute to a more resilient and sustainable energy infrastructure. Several AI technologies, including machine learning, deep learning, reinforcement learning, edge computing, and the Internet of Things (IoT), are fundamental to the development and operation of AI-enabled smart grid systems.

Machine learning and predictive analytics are essential components of AI-enabled smart grids, allowing utilities to forecast energy demand, optimize grid performance, and prevent system failures. Load forecasting and energy demand prediction involve analyzing historical and real-time data to anticipate future consumption patterns. Machine learning algorithms, such as support vector machines, decision trees, and ensemble learning methods, enable precise short-term and long-term energy demand predictions (Agbede, *et al*., 2023, Collins, *et al*., 2023, Fiemotongha, *et al*., 2023). By understanding consumption trends, utility companies can allocate resources more efficiently, mitigate peak load stress, and reduce dependency on non-renewable energy sources. Accurate forecasting also supports demand-side management, allowing consumers to adjust their energy usage based on real-time pricing and grid conditions. Figure 2 shows the communication enabled smart grid applications presented by Jayachandran, *et al*., 2021.

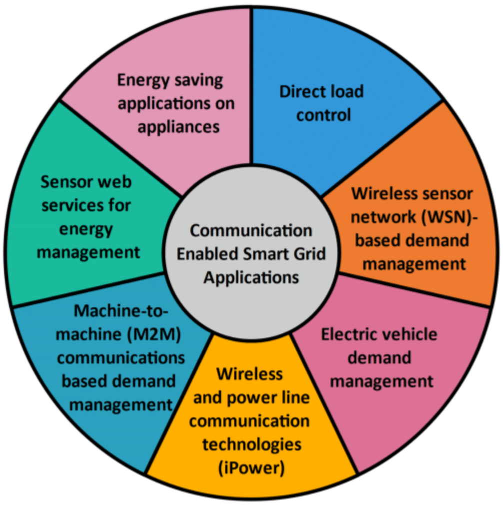

Fig 2: Communication enabled smart grid applications (Jayachandran, *et al*., 2021).

Fault detection and predictive maintenance are additional applications of machine learning that enhance grid reliability and prevent outages. Traditional grid maintenance strategies rely on periodic inspections or reactive approaches, which can lead to unanticipated system failures and costly repairs. AI-driven predictive maintenance models use real-time sensor data, anomaly detection techniques, and failure prediction algorithms to identify potential faults before they escalate (Aderamo, *et al*., 2024, Bello, *et al*., 2024, Hamza, *et al*., 2024). By analyzing voltage fluctuations, power quality, and equipment behavior, these models can alert grid operators to take preemptive actions, reducing downtime and maintenance costs. Predictive analytics further enables condition-based monitoring of transformers, circuit breakers, and substations, ensuring optimal grid performance and extending the lifespan of critical infrastructure.

Deep learning and neural networks contribute to smart grid optimization by recognizing complex patterns in vast datasets and enabling intelligent energy consumption modeling. Deep learning models, such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and recurrent neural networks (RNNs), can process large volumes of real-time grid data, identifying inefficiencies and anomalies that may not be apparent through conventional analytical methods (Mokogwu, *et al*., 2024). Pattern recognition for grid optimization involves detecting irregularities in energy distribution, voltage fluctuations, and grid imbalances. Neural networks analyze multidimensional datasets, improving the precision of energy forecasting, load balancing, and fault detection.

Intelligent energy consumption modeling is another key application of deep learning in smart grids. By leveraging deep learning techniques, utilities can develop detailed profiles of energy consumption patterns across different consumer segments. These models incorporate factors such as weather conditions, time-of-day usage trends, and economic indicators to provide more accurate and dynamic energy predictions. Intelligent modeling also supports personalized energy recommendations, encouraging consumers to adopt energy-efficient practices (Elete, *et al*., 2022, Eze, *et al*., 2022, Komolafe, *et al*., 2024). Furthermore, neural network-based demand response systems can adjust electricity prices dynamically based on supply and demand conditions, optimizing grid stability while promoting energy conservation. Chen, *et al*., 2023, presented in figure 3 the smart grid framework.

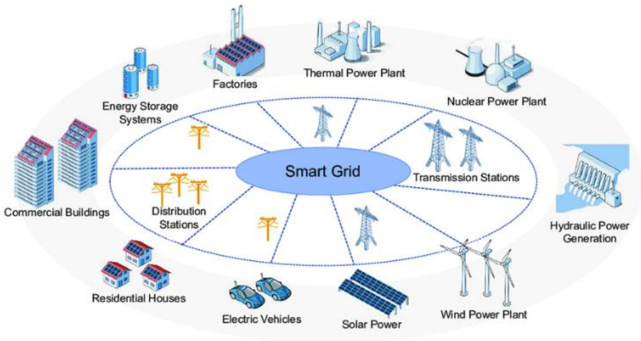

Fig 3: The smart grid framework (Chen, *et al*., 2023).

Reinforcement learning has emerged as a powerful technique for dynamic energy management and real-time decision-making in smart grid operations. Unlike supervised learning methods that rely on labeled datasets, reinforcement learning enables AI systems to learn optimal decision-making strategies through continuous interactions with the environment. Dynamic energy management involves real-time adjustments to energy distribution, ensuring that power generation aligns with fluctuating demand levels (Adeyemo, *et al*., 2021, Chukwuneke, *et al*., 2021, Jessa, 2017, Nwulu, *et al*., 2023). Reinforcement learning agents can autonomously control grid parameters, optimizing energy flow to prevent congestion, reduce losses, and maximize efficiency. By considering historical and real-time data, these AI agents learn to allocate energy resources dynamically, adapting to unexpected fluctuations in supply and demand.

Self-learning grid optimization is another significant application of reinforcement learning, allowing smart grids to improve their performance autonomously. Traditional grid control systems operate based on predefined rules, limiting their adaptability to evolving grid conditions. Reinforcement learning models, however, continuously refine their decision-making processes based on feedback from grid performance metrics. These AI models adjust control strategies for voltage regulation, frequency stability, and renewable energy integration, improving overall grid efficiency (Elete, *et al*., 2023, Ewim, *et al*., 2023, Hassan, *et al*., 2023). Additionally, reinforcement learning enables microgrid optimization, allowing decentralized energy networks to function more effectively by balancing local generation, storage, and consumption in real time.

Edge computing and IoT technologies play a pivotal role in enhancing smart grid efficiency by enabling real-time data processing and automation. Edge computing involves processing data at the source or near the point of generation rather than relying on centralized cloud-based systems. This reduces latency, enhances response times, and enables immediate decision-making in smart grid applications (Aderamo, *et al*., 2024, Chukwuneke, Olisakwe & Nnakwo, 2024, Jessa & Ajidahun, 2024). Real-time data processing allows utilities to monitor grid conditions, detect anomalies, and implement corrective measures without delays. AI-powered edge devices, such as smart meters and distributed sensors, facilitate instantaneous grid optimization, reducing the risk of power outages and improving energy distribution efficiency.

AI-driven sensor networks are integral to real-time grid monitoring and fault detection. IoT-enabled sensors collect data on voltage levels, power fluctuations, equipment health, and energy consumption patterns. AI algorithms process this data to identify irregularities, predict failures, and optimize grid performance. These sensor networks enable utilities to transition from reactive maintenance to proactive energy management, minimizing downtime and improving service reliability (Elete, *et al*., 2024, Erhueh, *et al*., 2024, Ikemba, Akinsooto & Ogundipe, 2024). Additionally, IoT-based AI systems enhance renewable energy integration by adjusting power distribution based on real-time solar and wind energy generation data.

The synergy between AI technologies and smart grids holds significant potential for advancing energy efficiency and sustainability in urban energy networks. Machine learning and predictive analytics enhance load forecasting and predictive maintenance, reducing energy waste and preventing system failures. Deep learning models optimize grid operations by recognizing consumption patterns and improving demand-side management. Reinforcement learning empowers smart grids with dynamic energy control and self-learning capabilities, making them more adaptive and resilient (Adewale, et a., 2022, Chukwuneke, *et al*., 2022, Mokogwu, *et al*., 2024). Edge computing and IoT enable real-time grid monitoring, ensuring rapid response to fluctuations and enhancing system automation.

Despite these advancements, the implementation of AI in smart grids presents challenges such as cybersecurity risks, data privacy concerns, and integration complexities. The deployment of AI-driven energy systems requires robust cybersecurity frameworks to protect grid infrastructure from cyber threats and unauthorized access. Additionally, integrating AI with legacy grid systems necessitates infrastructure upgrades and regulatory support to ensure seamless adoption (Adewumi, *et al*., 2024, Chumie, *et al*., 2024, Hassan, *et al*., 2024). Future research should focus on improving AI model transparency, developing decentralized energy management frameworks, and leveraging emerging technologies such as federated learning and blockchain for secure and efficient energy trading.

AI technologies are revolutionizing smart grid systems by enhancing efficiency, reliability, and sustainability in urban energy networks. The integration of machine learning, deep learning, reinforcement learning, edge computing, and IoT has transformed the way energy is managed, distributed, and consumed. These advancements contribute to the reduction of carbon footprints, promote the adoption of renewable energy, and improve the resilience of modern power grids (Agho, *et al*., 2022, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2022). As AI-driven innovations continue to evolve, they will play a critical role in shaping the future of energy management, enabling cities to transition toward smarter, more sustainable energy infrastructures.

2.2 Enhancing energy efficiency with AI

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a transformative force in the development of energy-efficient smart grids, enabling real-time optimization, adaptive load management, and intelligent energy distribution. AI-driven technologies play a critical role in ensuring that urban energy networks operate efficiently while minimizing energy losses and reducing carbon footprints. The integration of AI in smart grids enhances energy efficiency by optimizing load balancing, facilitating renewable energy integration, and enabling real-time monitoring and automated decision-making (Afolabi, Olisakwe & Igunma, 2024, Collins, *et al*., 2024, Jessa, 2024). These advancements contribute to creating a sustainable, reliable, and cost-effective energy infrastructure that can meet the growing energy demands of modern cities. Smart grid features presented by Elizabeth, *et al*., 2018, is shown in figure 4.

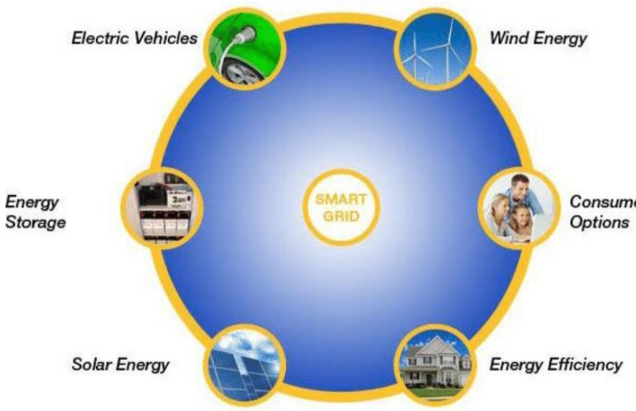

Fig 4: Smart grid features (Elizabeth, *et al*., 2018).

AI-optimized load balancing is a key aspect of energy efficiency in smart grids. Traditional energy distribution systems often struggle with balancing supply and demand, leading to inefficiencies such as energy wastage, voltage fluctuations, and overloading of grid components (Agbede, *et al*., 2024, Chukwuneke, *et al*., 2024, Hassan, *et al*., 2024). AI-powered demand response management offers an intelligent solution by dynamically adjusting electricity distribution based on real-time consumption patterns. Machine learning algorithms analyze historical and real-time energy usage data to predict demand fluctuations and allocate energy resources accordingly. This approach allows utilities to implement automated demand-side response strategies, incentivizing consumers to shift their energy usage to off-peak hours and reducing overall grid stress (Myllynen, *et al*., 2024). Demand response programs, enabled by AI, use real-time pricing models and automated control mechanisms to optimize energy consumption across residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.

Another significant benefit of AI in load balancing is reducing peak load dependency. Energy consumption often peaks during specific hours of the day, placing excessive pressure on the grid and requiring utilities to activate additional power generation units, often relying on fossil fuels. AI-driven predictive analytics help forecast peak demand periods and recommend strategies to distribute loads more efficiently (Ekengwu & Olisakwe, 2021, Fredson, *et al*., 2021, Mokogwu, *et al*., 2024). By leveraging smart grid technologies such as AI-driven energy storage management, excess power generated during off-peak hours can be stored and redistributed during high-demand periods. This approach minimizes the need for additional fossil fuel-based generation, reducing operational costs and carbon emissions. Furthermore, AI algorithms optimize grid voltage and frequency levels in real time, ensuring stable power supply without unnecessary energy wastage. By intelligently managing electricity loads, AI contributes to a more resilient and energy-efficient power system.

AI-driven renewable energy integration is another crucial factor in enhancing energy efficiency within urban energy networks. The increasing adoption of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power requires intelligent grid management to ensure seamless integration with existing energy infrastructure. AI plays a vital role in improving the accuracy of solar and wind energy forecasting, which is essential for balancing intermittent renewable power generation with grid demand (Egbuhuzor, *et al*., 2022, Ezeanochie, Afolabi & Akinsooto, 2022, Nwulu, *et al*., 2022). Traditional forecasting methods rely on historical weather patterns, but AI-based models incorporate real-time meteorological data, satellite imagery, and sensor inputs to improve the precision of renewable energy predictions. Advanced machine learning algorithms, such as artificial neural networks and support vector machines, analyze multiple variables to generate accurate short-term and long-term energy generation forecasts. This predictive capability enables grid operators to plan energy distribution more effectively, reducing reliance on backup fossil fuel generators and optimizing the utilization of renewable power (Elete, *et al*., 2023, Fagbule, *et al*., 2023, Hamza, *et al*., 2023).

Efficient grid integration of distributed energy resources (DERs) is another area where AI contributes to energy efficiency. DERs, including rooftop solar panels, wind turbines, and energy storage systems, generate power locally and reduce dependency on centralized power plants (Nwaozomudoh, *et al*., 2024). However, integrating these decentralized sources into the grid requires sophisticated management systems to ensure stability and efficiency. AI-based optimization techniques facilitate real-time coordination between DERs and the central grid by dynamically adjusting power flow, mitigating voltage fluctuations, and managing energy storage. AI-driven energy management systems enable smart grids to distribute renewable energy where it is needed most, preventing power imbalances and reducing transmission losses (Ajayi, *et al*., 2022, Collins, Hamza & Eweje, 2022, Nwakile, *et al*., 2024). Additionally, AI-powered microgrid controllers optimize the operation of localized energy systems by autonomously adjusting generation, storage, and consumption based on real-time demand and supply conditions. This decentralized approach to energy management enhances overall grid efficiency while promoting the widespread adoption of renewable energy sources (Aderamo, *et al*., 2024, Chukwuneke, *et al*., 2024, Hassan, *et al*., 2024).

Real-time monitoring and automated decision-making are fundamental to enhancing energy efficiency in smart grids. AI-powered smart meters and advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) play a crucial role in demand-side management by providing real-time insights into electricity consumption. Smart meters collect granular energy usage data from consumers and transmit it to utility providers, enabling AI algorithms to identify patterns, detect inefficiencies, and optimize power distribution (Adepoju, *et al*., 2023, Daramola, *et al*., 2023, Hamza, *et al*., 2023). AI-based demand-side management systems use this data to recommend energy-saving measures, automate demand response programs, and improve grid reliability. Consumers can also benefit from AI-driven energy management applications that provide personalized recommendations on energy usage, helping them reduce their electricity bills while contributing to overall grid efficiency. By integrating AI with smart metering infrastructure, utilities can implement dynamic pricing models that encourage energy conservation and promote sustainable consumption habits (Elete, *et al*., 2024, Erhueh, *et al*., 2024, Ezeanochie, Afolabi & Akinsooto, 2024).

Minimizing energy wastage through intelligent analytics is another significant advantage of AI in smart grids. Traditional grid systems often suffer from inefficiencies caused by transmission losses, equipment malfunctions, and suboptimal energy distribution. AI-driven analytics platforms use machine learning and big data techniques to continuously monitor grid performance and identify areas for improvement (Agho, *et al*., 2023, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2023). Predictive analytics models detect anomalies in energy distribution, allowing grid operators to take corrective actions before inefficiencies escalate. AI algorithms also optimize power factor correction, reducing energy losses associated with reactive power and improving overall grid efficiency. Additionally, AI-based load disaggregation techniques analyze electricity consumption at the appliance level, helping consumers and businesses identify energy-intensive devices and implement energy-saving measures.

AI-driven automation further enhances energy efficiency by enabling self-regulating grid operations. Automated control systems powered by AI can dynamically adjust voltage levels, reroute power distribution, and optimize energy storage utilization without human intervention. For instance, AI algorithms analyze real-time grid conditions and autonomously determine the most efficient routing of electricity, minimizing congestion and transmission losses (Adekoya, *et al*., 2024, Collins, *et al*., 2024, Hanson, *et al*., 2024). AI-enabled distributed energy resource management systems (DERMS) coordinate renewable energy generation, battery storage, and grid demand to optimize overall system performance. This level of automation reduces operational costs, enhances grid stability, and maximizes the efficiency of energy distribution networks.

The integration of AI into smart grid systems represents a significant advancement in energy efficiency, enabling utilities to optimize load balancing, integrate renewable energy sources, and implement real-time monitoring and automation. AI-optimized demand response management reduces grid stress, minimizes peak load dependency, and enhances the reliability of power distribution (Nwaozomudoh, *et al*., 2024). AI-driven forecasting and decentralized energy management improve the efficiency of renewable energy integration, ensuring that clean energy sources are utilized effectively. Real-time monitoring and automated decision-making empower smart grids to operate with higher efficiency, reducing energy wastage and improving overall sustainability (Elete, *et al*., 2022, Fredson, *et al*., 2022, Ikpambese, Onogu & Olisakwe, 2022).

Despite these benefits, challenges remain in the widespread adoption of AI in smart grids. Data security and privacy concerns, interoperability issues, and the need for regulatory frameworks must be addressed to ensure the successful implementation of AI-driven energy management systems. Furthermore, the integration of AI with legacy grid infrastructure requires significant investment in advanced technologies, including edge computing, IoT sensors, and cloud-based data analytics platforms (Nwulu, *et al*., 2023). Overcoming these challenges will require collaboration between policymakers, utility providers, technology developers, and research institutions to establish standards and best practices for AI-driven smart grid solutions.

As AI continues to evolve, its role in enhancing energy efficiency will become increasingly vital in shaping the future of urban energy networks. Emerging AI technologies, such as federated learning, blockchain-enabled energy trading, and quantum computing, hold the potential to further optimize grid performance and accelerate the transition to sustainable energy systems (Agu, *et al*., 2024, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2024). By harnessing the power of AI, smart grids can achieve higher levels of efficiency, reduce carbon footprints, and contribute to a cleaner, more resilient energy infrastructure. The successful deployment of AI-enabled smart grid technologies will not only benefit utility providers and consumers but also support global efforts to combat climate change and promote sustainable development in urban environments.

2.3 Carbon footprint reduction strategies

The transition to sustainable energy systems is critical in addressing the global challenge of climate change, and AI-enabled smart grids offer a viable solution for reducing carbon emissions in urban energy networks. AI-powered technologies enhance grid efficiency, optimize energy distribution, and promote the integration of renewable energy sources, ultimately reducing the carbon footprint of power generation and consumption (Afolabi, Olisakwe & Igunma, 2024, Elete, *et al*., 2024, Ishola, Odunaiya & Soyombo, 2024). By leveraging AI-driven emission reduction strategies, decentralized smart grid management, and intelligent electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, urban energy networks can significantly decrease their reliance on fossil fuels and promote sustainability.

AI-based grid efficiency models play a crucial role in reducing fossil fuel dependence by optimizing energy generation, transmission, and consumption. Traditional power grids often experience inefficiencies due to energy losses, reliance on non-renewable sources, and inadequate demand-supply balancing (Adewuyi, *et al*., 2024, Durojaiye, Ewim & Igwe, 2024, Ikemba, *et al*., 2024). AI-driven algorithms analyze real-time energy consumption patterns, weather conditions, and grid performance data to optimize power distribution. By predicting peak demand periods and adjusting energy generation accordingly, AI reduces the need for backup fossil fuel power plants, thereby decreasing overall carbon emissions. Machine learning models also identify inefficiencies in energy transmission, enabling utilities to reduce losses and improve overall grid efficiency (Adewale, et a., 2023, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2023). AI-powered energy management systems coordinate renewable energy integration, ensuring that solar, wind, and other green energy sources are utilized effectively to replace carbon-intensive power generation. By balancing energy loads and shifting demand to periods of high renewable energy availability, AI reduces grid dependency on coal and natural gas, contributing to lower emissions (Agbede, *et al*., 2021, Dirlikov, 2021, Nwankwo, *et al*., 2024, Nwulu, *et al*., 2022).

Reducing carbon-intensive power generation is another critical benefit of AI in smart grids. Fossil fuel-based power plants are often activated during peak demand periods, leading to increased greenhouse gas emissions. AI-driven demand-side response strategies help mitigate this issue by dynamically adjusting energy consumption to align with renewable energy supply (Aderamo, *et al*., 2024, Elete, *et al*., 2024, Ezeanochie, Afolabi & Akinsooto, 2024). Through AI-enabled predictive analytics, utilities can forecast energy demand fluctuations and implement automated load shifting strategies that prioritize renewable energy sources. Additionally, AI optimizes the operation of energy storage systems by charging batteries during periods of excess renewable energy production and discharging them when needed, reducing reliance on carbon-intensive peaking power plants (Ajayi, *et al*., 2023, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2023). AI-driven energy conservation initiatives, such as smart home automation and AI-powered industrial energy management systems, further reduce overall electricity consumption, minimizing the environmental impact of urban energy networks.

Smart grid decentralization and microgrid systems present an innovative approach to reducing carbon footprints through AI-driven distributed energy management. Traditional centralized power grids rely heavily on large-scale fossil fuel plants, which contribute to high transmission losses and carbon emissions (Adepoju, *et al*., 2024, Erhueh, *et al*., 2024, Farooq, Abbey & Onukwulu, 2024). In contrast, decentralized smart grids incorporate multiple small-scale renewable energy sources, such as rooftop solar panels, community wind farms, and battery storage systems. AI enables real-time monitoring and coordination of these distributed energy resources (DERs), ensuring efficient power distribution and minimal energy waste. By analyzing supply and demand trends, AI optimally allocates renewable energy to different areas, reducing dependence on centralized power plants and lowering carbon emissions (Adigun, *et al*., 2024, Durojaiye, Ewim & Igwe, 2024, Jeremiah Lekwuwa, *et al*., 2024). AI-powered microgrid controllers autonomously manage local energy generation, storage, and consumption, allowing communities to operate independently from the main grid during periods of high demand or outages. This approach improves energy resilience while significantly reducing transmission losses and greenhouse gas emissions (Agho, *et al*., 2022, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2022, Nwulu, *et al*., 2022).

Decentralized AI-powered energy trading further enhances the sustainability of smart grids by facilitating peer-to-peer (P2P) energy exchange among consumers and producers. Traditional energy markets rely on centralized utilities to control electricity distribution, often leading to inefficiencies and increased reliance on fossil fuel power plants. AI-driven blockchain-based platforms enable decentralized energy trading, allowing individuals and businesses to buy and sell excess renewable energy directly (Afolabi, Olisakwe & Igunma, 2024, Ewim, *et al*., 2024, Kokogho, *et al*., 2024). By leveraging AI algorithms, these platforms optimize energy pricing based on real-time demand and supply conditions, ensuring fair and efficient transactions. AI-powered smart contracts automate the execution of energy trades, reducing administrative overhead and increasing market transparency. Decentralized energy trading encourages the adoption of renewable energy by providing financial incentives for prosumers (producer-consumers) to generate and distribute clean energy (Aderamo, *et al*., 2024, Elete, *et al*., 2024, Ishola, Odunaiya & Soyombo, 2024). This system not only reduces reliance on carbon-intensive power generation but also empowers local communities to achieve energy self-sufficiency and sustainability.

AI plays a vital role in reducing carbon emissions through optimized electric vehicle (EV) charging and intelligent mobility solutions. The growing adoption of EVs presents both opportunities and challenges for urban energy networks. While EVs contribute to lower emissions compared to gasoline-powered vehicles, their charging demands can place significant strain on the power grid, especially during peak hours (Elete, *et al*., 2023, Farooq, Abbey & Onukwulu, 2023, Hassan, *et al*., 2023). AI-optimized EV charging infrastructure ensures that EVs are charged efficiently while minimizing grid disruptions. AI-powered demand forecasting predicts when and where charging demand will peak, enabling utilities to implement dynamic pricing and load-balancing strategies. By incentivizing off-peak charging through AI-driven pricing models, utilities can prevent grid overload and promote the use of renewable energy for EV charging (Agu, *et al*., 2024, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2024). AI also enables vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology, allowing EVs to act as mobile energy storage units. During peak demand periods, AI coordinates energy discharge from EV batteries back into the grid, stabilizing power supply and reducing the need for carbon-intensive backup generation (Adepoju, *et al*., 2022, Collins, Hamza & Eweje, 2022, Nwaozomudoh, 2024).

Reducing carbon emissions through intelligent mobility solutions extends beyond optimized EV charging. AI-driven traffic management systems enhance transportation efficiency by reducing congestion, optimizing traffic flow, and minimizing fuel consumption. Machine learning models analyze real-time traffic data, road conditions, and historical patterns to recommend optimal routes, reducing unnecessary fuel usage and emissions (Aderamo, *et al*., 2024, Eghaghe, *et al*., 2024, Ishola, Odunaiya & Soyombo, 2024). AI-powered ride-sharing platforms optimize vehicle allocation, reducing the number of single-occupancy vehicles on the road and promoting sustainable urban mobility. Autonomous electric vehicles (AEVs) leverage AI to optimize driving behavior, reducing energy consumption and extending battery life. Additionally, AI-driven urban planning models assist policymakers in designing sustainable transportation infrastructures that prioritize public transit, cycling, and pedestrian-friendly environments. These initiatives contribute to a holistic approach to reducing transportation-related carbon emissions while improving urban livability (Agbede, *et al*., 2023, Ekengwu, *et al*., 2023, Iwe, *et al*., 2023).

The integration of AI into smart grids, decentralized energy systems, and intelligent mobility solutions represents a significant advancement in carbon footprint reduction. AI-driven emission reduction strategies optimize grid efficiency, decrease reliance on fossil fuels, and promote the adoption of renewable energy. Smart grid decentralization enhances sustainability by enabling distributed energy management and facilitating peer-to-peer renewable energy trading. AI-powered EV charging infrastructure and intelligent mobility solutions further contribute to emission reductions by improving energy efficiency in transportation (Elete, *et al*., 2022, Fredson, *et al*., 2022, Hlanga, 2022).

Despite the benefits of AI-enabled carbon reduction strategies, challenges remain in their widespread implementation. Cybersecurity risks, data privacy concerns, and regulatory barriers must be addressed to ensure the successful deployment of AI-driven energy solutions. The integration of AI with existing energy infrastructure requires substantial investment in advanced technologies, including edge computing, IoT-enabled sensors, and blockchain-based energy trading platforms (Elete, Onyekwe & Adikwu, 2024, Ewim, *et al*., 2024, Joel, *et al*., 2024). Additionally, policy frameworks must be developed to support decentralized energy markets and encourage the adoption of AI-driven sustainability initiatives. Collaboration between governments, energy providers, technology developers, and researchers is essential to overcoming these challenges and accelerating the transition to low-carbon energy systems.

As AI continues to evolve, its role in carbon footprint reduction will become increasingly significant in shaping the future of sustainable urban energy networks. Emerging AI technologies, such as federated learning, quantum computing, and autonomous energy management systems, hold the potential to further enhance efficiency and drive emissions reductions (Adebisi, *et al*., 2022, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2022). By harnessing the power of AI, smart grids can achieve higher levels of sustainability, contributing to global climate goals and promoting a cleaner, greener future. The successful deployment of AI-driven carbon reduction strategies will not only benefit energy providers and consumers but also support worldwide efforts to combat climate change and build resilient, sustainable cities.

2.4 Challenges and barriers to implementation

The adoption of AI-enabled smart grid systems for energy efficiency and carbon footprint reduction in urban energy networks presents significant challenges that must be addressed to ensure their successful deployment. Despite the transformative potential of AI-driven technologies in enhancing grid stability, optimizing energy distribution, and reducing emissions, various technical, financial, regulatory, and security-related barriers hinder their widespread implementation (Agho, *et al*., 2024, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2024). Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach involving technological advancements, policy development, industry collaboration, and robust cybersecurity frameworks to ensure the sustainable and secure integration of AI into smart grid infrastructure.

One of the major challenges facing AI-enabled smart grids is cybersecurity risks and data privacy concerns. AI-driven threats in smart grids arise from the increased digitalization and connectivity of power networks, making them vulnerable to cyberattacks, data breaches, and malicious intrusions. Smart grids rely on interconnected devices, including IoT sensors, cloud-based platforms, and AI-driven control systems, to optimize energy distribution and enhance efficiency (Adikwu, *et al*., 2023, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2023). However, these digital systems are susceptible to cyber threats such as ransomware attacks, data tampering, and unauthorized access. AI-powered cyberattacks can manipulate grid operations, disrupt power supply, and compromise critical infrastructure, posing severe risks to energy security and public safety. The increasing use of AI in decision-making processes also raises concerns about adversarial attacks, where hackers exploit vulnerabilities in machine learning models to manipulate energy forecasts and demand response mechanisms (Afolabi, *et al*., 2021, Eddy, *et al*., 2021, Jahun, *et al*., 2021).

Ensuring secure data management in AI-enabled smart grids is crucial to mitigating cybersecurity risks and protecting user privacy. Smart grids generate vast amounts of real-time data from sensors, smart meters, and distributed energy resources, requiring secure data storage, encryption, and access control mechanisms. The implementation of AI-driven energy management systems necessitates stringent cybersecurity measures, including blockchain technology for secure data transactions, advanced authentication protocols, and decentralized access controls to prevent unauthorized interventions (Adaramola, *et al*., 2024, Elete, Erhueh & Akano, 2024, Joel, *et al*., 2024). Additionally, regulatory compliance with data protection laws, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), is essential to safeguard consumer information and prevent misuse. Utility providers must invest in cybersecurity resilience, real-time threat detection, and AI-powered anomaly detection systems to proactively identify and counteract potential cyber threats.

Integration challenges and infrastructure limitations also present significant barriers to the widespread adoption of AI in smart grids. AI adoption in legacy grid systems remains a complex challenge, as most existing power grids were designed decades ago with limited digital capabilities. Traditional grid infrastructure lacks the computational power, real-time data processing capabilities, and interoperability required for AI-driven automation and optimization (Ajayi, *et al*., 2024, Ejairu, *et al*., 2024, Igwe, *et al*., 2024). Retrofitting legacy systems with AI-enabled technologies demands extensive upgrades, including the deployment of smart sensors, advanced metering infrastructure, and high-speed communication networks to facilitate real-time data exchange. However, integrating AI with legacy grids poses compatibility issues, as many older systems were not designed to support digital transformation. Utilities must navigate challenges related to data standardization, system interoperability, and real-time connectivity to enable seamless AI integration (Aderamo, *et al*., 2024, Elete, 2024, Ewim, *et al*., 2024, Kokogho, *et al*., 2024).

Cost and scalability concerns further complicate AI adoption in smart grids, particularly in large-scale urban energy networks. Implementing AI-driven solutions requires substantial financial investment in software development, hardware infrastructure, and workforce training. Utilities and energy providers must allocate resources for upgrading existing infrastructure, deploying AI-powered analytics platforms, and maintaining cybersecurity defenses. The high upfront costs associated with AI deployment may discourage smaller utilities and municipalities from adopting smart grid technologies, particularly in regions with limited financial resources (Agu, *et al*., 2024, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2024). Moreover, scalability remains a critical concern, as AI models trained on smaller datasets may struggle to perform efficiently in complex, large-scale urban environments. Ensuring that AI-driven smart grid solutions can scale effectively while maintaining reliability and accuracy is essential for their long-term viability. Overcoming these financial and scalability challenges requires innovative financing models, government incentives, and collaborative investment strategies to support the widespread adoption of AI-enabled smart grid technologies (Adekoya, *et al*., 2024, Eghaghe, *et al*., 2024, Folorunso, *et al*., 2024).

Regulatory and policy constraints present additional hurdles in the implementation of AI-driven smart grids, as existing energy policies often fail to address the complexities of AI integration. The need for updated policies and AI governance is crucial to establishing clear guidelines for the ethical, secure, and efficient use of AI in energy management. Current regulatory frameworks primarily focus on traditional grid operations, leaving gaps in AI oversight, data privacy regulations, and cybersecurity mandates (Adepoju, *et al*., 2022, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2022). The absence of standardized policies for AI implementation in smart grids leads to uncertainties regarding liability, compliance, and consumer rights. Developing comprehensive AI governance frameworks is essential to address ethical concerns related to AI decision-making, transparency, and accountability in energy management systems. Regulatory bodies must establish policies that define AI safety standards, data protection measures, and risk assessment protocols to ensure responsible AI deployment in urban energy networks (Agho, *et al*., 2023, Elete, *et al*., 2023, Jahun, *et al*., 2021, Nwulu, *et al*., 2024).

The role of government and industry collaboration is instrumental in overcoming regulatory barriers and driving the successful adoption of AI-enabled smart grids. Policymakers, energy regulators, utility providers, and technology developers must work together to create a conducive environment for AI integration. Governments can play a proactive role by introducing incentives for AI research and development, funding pilot projects, and implementing tax benefits for utilities that adopt AI-driven sustainability initiatives (Afolabi & Akinsooto, 2023, Fiemotongha, *et al*., 2023, Jessa, 2023). Public-private partnerships can accelerate innovation by facilitating knowledge-sharing, developing AI training programs, and promoting best practices in smart grid deployment. Industry stakeholders must also collaborate to establish global standards for AI interoperability, data sharing, and cybersecurity resilience in smart grid systems.

The challenges associated with AI-enabled smart grids underscore the importance of addressing cybersecurity risks, infrastructure limitations, and regulatory gaps to unlock their full potential. Ensuring secure data management and implementing robust cybersecurity frameworks are essential to mitigating AI-driven threats and protecting grid stability. Overcoming integration challenges requires modernizing legacy grid infrastructure, enhancing system interoperability, and adopting cost-effective AI deployment strategies (Elete, *et al*., 2024, Esho, Aderamo & Olisakwe, 2024, Joel, *et al*., 2024). Regulatory reforms and industry collaboration are key to fostering AI governance, establishing ethical guidelines, and creating a supportive policy environment for AI-driven energy transformation.

Despite these challenges, the long-term benefits of AI-enabled smart grids far outweigh the barriers to implementation. AI has the potential to revolutionize urban energy networks by improving efficiency, reducing carbon emissions, and enhancing grid resilience. As technology continues to evolve, advancements in edge computing, federated learning, and blockchain-based energy management will address many of the existing constraints, making AI-powered smart grids more secure, scalable, and cost-effective (Ekengwu, *et al*., 2021, Fredson, *et al*., 2021, Kokogho, *et al*., 2023). Governments, utilities, and technology innovators must take proactive steps to accelerate AI adoption, ensuring that urban energy networks can transition toward a cleaner, more sustainable, and intelligent energy future. Through strategic investments, regulatory reforms, and collaborative innovation, AI-enabled smart grids can play a pivotal role in achieving global energy sustainability goals while addressing the pressing challenges of climate change and urban energy demand (Aderamo, *et al*., 2024, Ejairu, *et al*., 2024, Igwe, *et al*., 2024).

2.5 Future trends and research directions

The future of AI-enabled smart grid systems holds immense potential for transforming urban energy networks into more efficient, sustainable, and resilient infrastructures. As AI continues to evolve, emerging trends and research directions focus on improving energy management, optimizing grid operations, and enhancing carbon footprint reduction strategies. The integration of advanced AI techniques, quantum computing, and policy innovations will play a crucial role in shaping the next generation of smart grids (Adikwu, *et al*., 2024, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2024). Future developments will prioritize decentralized energy management, blockchain-enabled energy trading, AI-driven quantum optimizations, and collaborative policymaking efforts to create sustainable, intelligent energy networks.

Advances in AI for energy management are leading to more decentralized and autonomous smart grids. Traditional energy systems rely on centralized control mechanisms, which can lead to inefficiencies and delays in decision-making. Federated learning and decentralized AI models provide an innovative solution by enabling smart grids to operate autonomously while securely sharing data across multiple energy nodes (Adepoju, *et al*., 2024, Eghaghe, *et al*., 2024, Ijomah, *et al*., 2024). Federated learning allows AI models to be trained on distributed datasets without transferring raw data to a central server, enhancing data privacy and reducing computational burdens. This decentralized approach enables energy providers to implement real-time demand response mechanisms, optimize renewable energy integration, and improve grid resilience. Decentralized AI-driven grid management systems also facilitate more efficient peer-to-peer energy transactions, enabling communities to generate, store, and distribute energy locally.

Blockchain-based AI applications in energy trading are revolutionizing how electricity is bought and sold in urban energy markets. Traditional energy trading models involve intermediaries such as utility companies, which often lead to inefficiencies and higher costs for consumers. AI-driven blockchain platforms enable transparent, decentralized energy trading by allowing prosumers (producer-consumers) to exchange excess renewable energy directly with consumers (Agu, *et al*., 2024, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2024). Smart contracts, powered by AI algorithms, automatically execute transactions based on real-time demand, supply, and pricing conditions. These platforms provide secure, tamper-proof energy transaction records, reducing fraud and ensuring fair energy distribution. AI-powered blockchain networks also improve grid stability by dynamically balancing energy supply and demand, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and lowering carbon emissions. Future research in this area will focus on enhancing the scalability of blockchain networks, optimizing AI algorithms for transaction verification, and integrating decentralized finance (DeFi) solutions to create a more inclusive energy market.

The convergence of AI and quantum computing presents a groundbreaking opportunity for ultra-fast smart grid analysis and optimization. Traditional AI models, while effective, face computational limitations when dealing with complex energy grid simulations and large-scale real-time analytics (Elete, *et al*., 2024, Elufioye, *et al*., 2024, Folorunso, *et al*., 2024). Quantum computing, with its ability to process vast amounts of data simultaneously, offers unprecedented advantages for energy optimization. AI-driven quantum algorithms can analyze multiple energy scenarios in real time, enabling grid operators to make faster and more accurate decisions. Quantum-enhanced predictive analytics can forecast energy demand with greater precision, optimize load balancing strategies, and improve grid resilience against unforeseen disruptions.

AI-quantum synergies also contribute to enhanced efficiency in energy management by optimizing power distribution across decentralized grid networks. Quantum machine learning models can identify patterns in energy consumption, detect anomalies, and generate optimal grid configurations that minimize energy losses. Additionally, quantum computing enables real-time simulations of renewable energy integration, allowing utilities to develop smarter, more efficient energy storage solutions (Adewale, et a., 2022, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2022). By leveraging quantum AI algorithms, smart grids can achieve higher levels of automation, reducing human intervention while ensuring sustainable energy management. Future research in this field will focus on developing quantum-safe AI models, improving quantum hardware scalability, and exploring hybrid AI-quantum frameworks for energy optimization.

Policy and innovation roadmaps for AI-enabled smart grids are essential for fostering collaboration between policymakers, researchers, and industry stakeholders. The rapid adoption of AI in energy systems requires regulatory frameworks that ensure ethical, secure, and efficient AI deployment. Policymakers must work closely with energy providers, AI researchers, and technology developers to establish standards for AI interoperability, cybersecurity, and data privacy (Afolabi & Akinsooto, 2023, Egbuhuzor, *et al*., 2023, Kamau, *et al*., 2023). The development of AI governance frameworks will address concerns related to algorithm transparency, accountability, and fairness in energy decision-making. Regulations must also support AI-driven demand response programs, energy efficiency incentives, and the integration of decentralized energy resources into the grid.

Collaboration between policymakers and industry leaders is critical for accelerating AI innovation in smart grids. Governments can facilitate AI research and development by funding pilot projects, offering tax incentives for AI-powered energy solutions, and supporting knowledge-sharing initiatives between academia and industry. Public-private partnerships can drive technological advancements by combining government-backed policy frameworks with industry expertise in AI deployment (Aderamo, *et al*., 2024, Egbuhuzor, 2024, Ewim, *et al*., 2024, Nwulu, *et al*., 2024). Future research directions will focus on policy-driven AI integration models that balance technological advancements with environmental and social considerations.

Sustainable AI-powered grid models for the future will incorporate emerging technologies such as AI-driven microgrids, adaptive energy pricing models, and edge computing for real-time grid optimization. AI-driven microgrids will enhance energy resilience by enabling localized energy production and storage, reducing reliance on centralized power plants. Adaptive energy pricing models, powered by AI analytics, will encourage energy conservation by dynamically adjusting electricity prices based on supply and demand conditions (Elete, *et al*., 2024, Elufioye, *et al*., 2024, Folorunso, *et al*., 2024). Edge computing will further enhance AI-enabled smart grids by enabling real-time data processing at the network edge, reducing latency and improving decision-making speed.

The future of AI-enabled smart grids will also focus on integrating AI with Internet of Things (IoT) networks to create fully autonomous, self-regulating energy systems. AI-powered IoT devices, including smart meters, energy sensors, and automated demand response systems, will provide real-time insights into energy consumption patterns, allowing for more precise energy distribution (Adewale, et a., 2022, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2022). AI-driven IoT platforms will facilitate predictive maintenance, reducing downtime and ensuring optimal grid performance. Future research will explore AI-IoT convergence for energy efficiency, including AI-driven sensor networks that optimize energy flow and minimize transmission losses.

Despite the promising advancements in AI-enabled smart grid systems, several challenges remain in achieving widespread adoption. The high cost of AI implementation, data security concerns, and regulatory constraints must be addressed to ensure the successful integration of AI-driven energy solutions (Afolabi & Akinsooto, 2023, Egbuhuzor, *et al*., 2023, Kamau, *et al*., 2023). Research efforts should focus on developing cost-effective AI deployment strategies, enhancing cybersecurity measures, and establishing global AI governance frameworks. Additionally, AI ethics in energy decision-making will be a key area of research, ensuring that AI-driven policies prioritize sustainability, equity, and consumer protection.

As AI technologies continue to evolve, their role in shaping the future of smart grids will become increasingly significant. Emerging AI techniques, including deep reinforcement learning, generative adversarial networks (GANs), and explainable AI, will enhance the efficiency, reliability, and transparency of smart grid operations (Aderamo, *et al*., 2024, Egbuhuzor, 2024, Ewim, *et al*., 2024, Nwulu, *et al*., 2024). The integration of AI with next-generation energy storage solutions, such as solid-state batteries and hydrogen fuel cells, will further accelerate the transition toward sustainable energy systems. Future research will explore the potential of AI-driven energy harvesting techniques, where machine learning models optimize energy collection from renewable sources, maximizing efficiency and sustainability.

The roadmap for AI-enabled smart grids will prioritize innovation, sustainability, and resilience, ensuring that urban energy networks can meet the growing energy demands of the future. By leveraging AI-driven advancements, policymakers, researchers, and industry stakeholders can collaborate to create intelligent, decentralized, and low-carbon energy infrastructures (Ajayi, *et al*., 2024, Bristol-Alagbariya, Ayanponle & Ogedengbe, 2024). The successful implementation of AI-enabled smart grids will not only improve energy efficiency but also play a crucial role in global efforts to combat climate change and promote a sustainable energy future. Through continuous research, technological advancements, and policy support, AI-driven smart grids will pave the way for a cleaner, smarter, and more resilient energy landscape.

3. Conclusion

AI-enabled smart grid systems have emerged as a transformative solution for improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon footprints in urban energy networks. AI-driven technologies optimize power distribution, enhance grid resilience, and enable seamless integration of renewable energy sources. By leveraging machine learning, predictive analytics, deep learning, reinforcement learning, and IoT-driven automation, AI significantly enhances load balancing, demand-side management, and real-time energy optimization. The adoption of AI in smart grids helps utilities minimize energy wastage, improve fault detection, and facilitate intelligent energy trading, ultimately reducing reliance on fossil fuels and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. However, while AI presents numerous benefits, challenges such as cybersecurity risks, infrastructure limitations, regulatory constraints, and high implementation costs remain barriers to its widespread adoption. Addressing these challenges requires strategic planning, investment, and collaboration among key stakeholders.

Utility companies, policymakers, and researchers must play proactive roles in advancing AI-enabled smart grids. Utility companies should invest in AI-driven analytics platforms, enhance grid modernization efforts, and prioritize cybersecurity resilience to protect AI-powered energy systems from cyber threats. Policymakers must develop regulatory frameworks that support AI integration while ensuring data privacy, transparency, and ethical AI governance. Policies should encourage investment in AI research, provide financial incentives for AI-powered energy solutions, and establish cybersecurity guidelines to protect critical infrastructure. Researchers must continue exploring AI innovations, focusing on scalable, cost-effective, and sustainable smart grid models. Collaborative research efforts between academia, industry, and government agencies will drive the development of advanced AI techniques that optimize energy efficiency and facilitate a cleaner energy transition.

The future of AI-enabled smart grids will be instrumental in achieving global sustainability goals. As AI technologies continue to evolve, their role in urban energy networks will become more pronounced, ensuring a reliable, adaptive, and low-carbon energy infrastructure. AI-driven advancements in federated learning, blockchain-based energy trading, and quantum computing will further enhance grid efficiency and enable decentralized, resilient energy systems. The widespread adoption of AI-enabled smart grids will not only improve urban energy management but also contribute to global efforts in mitigating climate change and reducing carbon footprints. By embracing AI-driven innovations and fostering multi-sector collaboration, cities can transition toward a smarter, more efficient, and sustainable energy future.

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