International Journal of Recent Development in Engineering and Technology
Website: www.ijrdet.com (ISSN 2347-6435(Online) Volume 15, Issue 01, January 2026)

Artificial Intelligence for Climate Change Mitigation: Opportunities, Applications, and Challenges

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***Abstract*— Climate change is intensifying due to escalating greenhouse gas emissions, exerting severe pressure on ecosystems, economic systems, and public health. Addressing this global challenge requires intelligent, data-driven solutions capable of managing complex environmental systems. Artificial intelligence (AI), including machine learning, deep learning, and optimization techniques, has emerged as a powerful enabler of climate change mitigation. This paper reviews recent advances in AI-driven mitigation strategies across renewable energy, agriculture, transportation, industry, forestry, and climate governance. The benefits, technical limitations, and ethical considerations of AI deployment are critically examined. The study highlights how responsibly designed AI systems can accelerate the transition toward low-carbon and climate-resilient development pathways.**

***Keywords*— Artificial intelligence, Carbon emission reduction, Climate change mitigation, Precision agriculture, Renewable energy optimization, Sustainable development.**

I. INTRODUCTION

Climate change mitigation refers to practices that reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and enhance carbon sinks. Sustainable solutions must integrate technology, policy, economic incentives, and societal changes. In this context, AI — encompassing machine learning, deep learning, optimization, and data analytics — offers innovative capabilities for modeling complex systems, enabling precision interventions, and optimizing resource use. AI can significantly contribute to climate mitigation by improving efficiency, forecasting changes, and enabling intelligent decision making in energy, land use, transportation, and industrial processes (Rolnick et al., 2019).

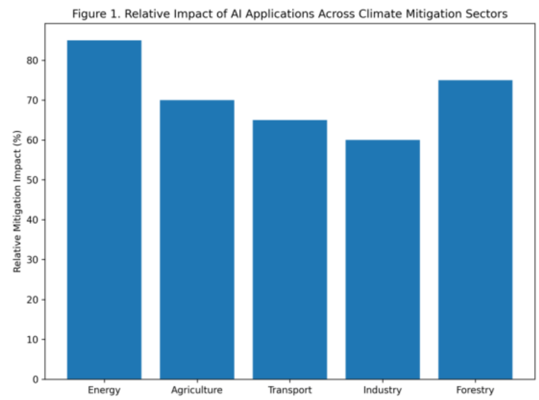

Figure 1. Relative mitigation potential of artificial intelligence applications across major climate-relevant sectors, including energy systems, agriculture, transportation, industry, and forestry.

Table 1.
Major AI Techniques Used for Climate Change Mitigation

AI Technique	**Application Area**	**Mitigation Contribution**
Machine Learning	Energy forecasting	Reduced fossil fuel use
Deep Learning	Climate modeling	Accurate prediction
Reinforcement Learning	Smart grids	Energy efficiency
Computer Vision	Forest monitoring	Reduced deforestation
Optimization Algorithms	Transport systems	Lower emissions

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II. AI Techniques For Climate Change Mitigation

Machine learning, deep learning, reinforcement learning, computer vision, and optimization algorithms are widely applied in climate mitigation. These techniques improve forecasting accuracy, enable intelligent decision-making, and enhance system-level efficiency.

III. AI In Renewable Energy Systems

3.1 Forecasting and Grid Integration

AI techniques, such as neural networks and support vector machines, enhance forecasting of renewable energy generation (e.g., wind and solar), improving grid stability and reducing dependence on fossil fuel backup power (Zhang et al., 2020). Accurate prediction of renewable outputs helps utilities balance supply–demand and reduce curtailment.

3.2 Smart Grid Optimization

AI algorithms optimize energy distribution in smart grids by adjusting loads and managing demand response, ultimately minimizing energy waste and carbon emissions. Deep reinforcement learning has been used to manage complex grid operations efficiently (Kiani et al., 2022).

IV. AI In Agriculture And Land Use

4.1 Precision Agriculture

AI-enabled precision farming leverages satellite imagery, sensor networks, and machine learning for real-time decision making on irrigation, fertilizer application, and pest control. Precision agriculture reduces energy use and nitrous oxide emissions by applying inputs only where needed (Liakos et al., 2018).

4.2 Climate-Smart Crop Forecasting

Predictive AI models help forecast crop yields under climate extremes, aiding adaptation and resource allocation while reducing carbon footprints associated with inefficiencies in crop production.

V. AI For Transportation Emissions Reduction

AI supports intelligent transport systems (ITS) by optimizing routes, managing traffic flows, and integrating autonomous vehicles. Reduced congestion and improved fuel efficiency can lead to significant reductions in carbon emissions (Huang et al., 2021). AI also aids electrification strategies by optimizing charging networks and battery usage patterns.

VI. Forestry And Ecosystem Protection

Deforestation is a major source of carbon emissions. AI enables monitoring of forest changes through satellite imagery and automated detection of illegal logging. Convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and remote sensing improve large-scale tracking of forest cover and support conservation strategies (Ienca et al., 2021).

VII. Vii. Ai In Industrial Emissions And Carbon Capture

AI enhances energy efficiency in industrial settings through predictive maintenance, reducing downtime and energy waste. Furthermore, AI is being applied to design and optimize carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies, potentially reducing emissions from heavy industries (Mandal et al., 2022).

VIII. AI In Climate Policy And Decision Support

AI supports climate policy by modeling socio-economic and environmental scenarios. AI-driven integrated assessment models (IAMs) evaluate the impacts of mitigation strategies, assess cost–benefit dynamics, and assist policymakers in identifying effective climate actions.

Table 2.
Sector-Wise Applications of AI for Climate Mitigation

Sector	**AI Application**	**Mitigation Outcome**
Energy	Smart grids, forecasting	Reduced CO_2 emissions
Agriculture	Precision farming	Reduced N_2O emissions
Transportation	Traffic optimization	Fuel efficiency
Industry	Predictive maintenance	Lower energy use
Forestry	Deforestation detection	Carbon sequestration

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IX. Opportunities And Advntages

9.1 Scalability and Flexibility

AI systems can process massive data streams, making them suitable for large-scale climate applications. They adapt to changing conditions and integrate diverse datasets, from satellite observations to sensor networks.

9.2 Real-Time Adaptation

Adaptive learning enables systems to respond in real time to changing climate variables, improving the resilience and efficiency of mitigation interventions.

Table 3.
Advantages and Challenges of AI-Driven Climate Solutions

Aspect	Advantages	Challenges
Scalability	Large-scale deployment	Infrastructure cost
Accuracy	High predictive power	Data bias
Efficiency	Optimized resources	Energy-intensive training
Policy support	Better decision making	Ethical concerns

X. Challenges And Risks

10.1 Data Quality and Bias

AI outcomes depend heavily on data quality. Incomplete or biased datasets can lead to erroneous predictions and suboptimal decisions, underscoring the need for rigorous data governance.

10.2 Computational Emissions

AI training and deployment require significant computational resources, which themselves may contribute to carbon emissions if powered by non-renewable energy sources (Strubell et al., 2020).

10.3 Ethical and Governance Issues

Responsible AI frameworks must address transparency, accountability, and equitable deployment, particularly in vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by climate change.

XI. Future Directions

Future research should focus on developing energy-efficient AI architectures, interpretable models, and robust hybrid systems that integrate AI with domain-specific physical models. Multidisciplinary collaboration and global policy frameworks will be essential for maximizing positive impacts and minimizing unintended consequences.

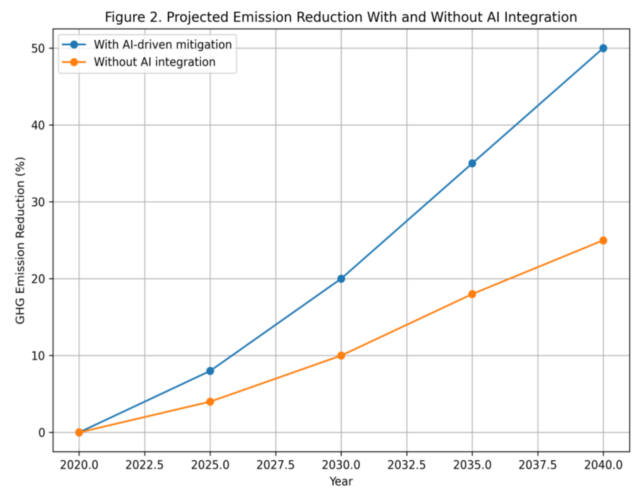

Figure 2. Projected greenhouse gas emission reduction trajectories with and without AI-driven climate mitigation strategies.

XII. Conclusion

AI-driven solutions possess significant potential to accelerate climate change mitigation across sectors. From enhancing renewable energy integration to optimizing agricultural inputs and monitoring ecosystems, AI enables smarter, data-driven interventions. However, challenges related to data quality, computational footprints, and ethical governance must be addressed proactively. With responsible development and deployment, AI can become a cornerstone technology for achieving global climate goals.

Table 4.
AI Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SDG	AI Contribution
SDG 7	Clean energy optimization
SDG 9	Sustainable industrialization
SDG 11	Smart cities
SDG 12	Resource efficiency
SDG 13	Climate action

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