iJRASET
International Journal For Research in
Applied Science and Engineering Technology

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Volume: 13 **Issue:** XI **Month of publication:** November 2025

DOI: https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2025.75447

International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRASET)
ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538
Volume 13 Issue XI Nov 2025- Available at www.ijraset.com

Carbon Footprint Tracker Using IoT and AI for Vehicle Emission Control

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Abstract: This project focuses on developing an IoT and AI-based Carbon Footprint Tracker for vehicle emission control. The system continuously monitors exhaust gases such as CO, CO_2, and hydrocarbons (HC) using gas sensors (MQ135, MQ7, MQ2) interfaced with an ESP32 microcontroller. The collected sensor data is transmitted to a cloud database for real-time analysis. Using AI algorithms, the system classifies vehicles as low or high emitters and provides instant alerts through a Progressive Web App (PWA) when emission levels exceed permissible limits.The application also offers maintenance recommendations and trend visualization, enabling users to track their vehicle's environmental impact. This integrated system promotes predictive maintenance, fuel efficiency, and compliance with emission standards. Overall, it contributes to reducing pollution and supports sustainable transportation through smart, data-driven monitoring.

Keywords: IoT, Artificial Intelligence, ESP32, MQ Sensors, Vehicle Emission Control, Carbon Footprint Tracker, PWA, Sustainable Transportation.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Motivation and Context

The rapid increase in vehicles has led to rising air pollution and carbon emissions, causing serious environmental concerns. Traditional emission tests like PUC checks fail to monitor emissions in real time. With advancements in IoT and AI, it is now possible to develop smart systems that can track and analyze vehicle emissions automatically. The proposed project, "Carbon Footprint Tracker Using IoT and AI for Vehicle Emission Control," aims to monitor exhaust gases, detect pollution levels, and provide instant alerts and maintenance suggestions, promoting eco-friendly and sustainable transportation.

B. Research Problem Statement

Vehicular pollution is a leading cause of air quality degradation, yet existing emission checking methods such as periodic PUC tests provide only temporary results and fail to monitor real-time emissions. This lack of continuous monitoring allows vehicles to release harmful gases like CO, CO_2, and hydrocarbons unchecked. The core research problem is to design an automated IoT and AI-based system capable of tracking exhaust gases in real time, analyzing data through intelligent algorithms, and generating instant alerts when emission levels exceed permissible limits. The proposed solution aims to ensure accurate detection, predictive maintenance, and user awareness through a Progressive Web App (PWA), thereby promoting efficient emission control and sustainable transportation.

C. Contributions

This project presents an innovative IoT and AI-based system designed for continuous vehicle emission monitoring and carbon footprint tracking. The proposed model combines gas sensors (MQ135, MQ7, MQ2) with an ESP32 microcontroller to detect harmful gases such as CO, CO_2, and hydrocarbons in real time. The collected data is transmitted to a cloud server and analyzed using AI algorithms to classify vehicles as low or high emitters, ensuring accurate emission assessment. A Progressive Web App (PWA) has been developed to display real-time data, issue alerts, and provide maintenance recommendations to users. The key contributions of this work include the development of a low-cost, portable emission tracking system, integration of AI-driven predictive analytics for preventive maintenance, and the creation of a user-friendly platform that promotes environmental sustainability and supports data-driven pollution control.

D. Organization of paper

The rest of this report is organized to present the design, development, and evaluation of the Carbon Footprint Tracker Using IoT and AI for Vehicle Emission Control system. Following this introduction, Section II presents the Related Work and Literature

Survey, summarizing previous research on IoT-based emission monitoring and AI-driven environmental analysis while identifying existing gaps. Section III details the Proposed System, explaining the architecture, components, and integration of IoT sensors with AI algorithms for real-time emission tracking. Section IV describes the Methodology and Implementation, including hardware setup, data processing, cloud communication, and user interface design through a Progressive Web App (PWA). Section V discusses Testing and Evaluation, covering test plans, performance validation, and results analysis. Finally, Section VI highlights the Conclusion and Future Scope, emphasizing the system's contributions, limitations, and potential enhancements toward sustainable transportation.

II. RELATED WORK AND LITERATURE ANALYSIS

A comprehensive review of the existing literature highlights rapid advancements in the fields of IoT-based environmental monitoring, AI-driven analytics, and smart emission management systems. However, most existing studies approach these areas separately—either focusing on IoT sensor-based data collection or AI algorithms for predictive modeling, without integrating both into a unified, real-time framework specifically designed for vehicular emission control.

The following research works provide valuable insights into the current state of technology, methodologies, and the limitations that shape the foundation for our proposed system.

A. Exploring the Influencing Factors of Carbon

Footprint Tracking Application Usage Intention

(Li & Liu, IEEE, 2024)

This study explores behavioral and psychological factors influencing users' willingness to adopt carbon footprint tracking applications. The researchers employed a hybrid theoretical framework combining the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) and the Norm Activation Model (NAM) to analyze user motivation, awareness, and adoption behaviors. Their results indicate that performance expectancy, effort expectancy, and personal environmental norms significantly influence users' intentions to use carbon tracking tools.

While this work provides an excellent understanding of the human and behavioral aspects of sustainability technology adoption, it primarily focuses on software-level applications and user perception, without any integration of hardware-based IoT devices or AI-driven emission prediction. Thus, although it informs user-centric design considerations, it does not address the technical mechanisms of emission data acquisition or control — areas where our proposed system provides an innovative solution.

B. Vehicle Emission Monitoring and Control using IoT

(Bhushan Chaudhari et al., YMER Journal, 2024)

In this research, the authors propose an IoT-enabled framework for detecting vehicular emissions using gas sensors such as MQ2, MQ7, and MQ135, connected to an ESP32 microcontroller. The system measures pollutants including carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO_2), and hydrocarbons (HC), and transmits the data to a cloud server for visualization and monitoring. The study effectively demonstrates the potential of IoT in achieving low-cost and scalable emission tracking, emphasizing its use in identifying high-polluting vehicles and promoting preventive maintenance.

However, the system is largely reactive rather than predictive—it reports current pollution levels but lacks analytical intelligence to forecast emission trends or recommend corrective actions. Moreover, the absence of AI integration and user-centered dashboards limits its applicability for individual users or city-scale deployments. In contrast, our proposed system introduces AI-based classification and real-time web visualization, enabling proactive maintenance and improved user engagement.

C. Integration of IoT and Artificial Intelligence for Smart Environmental Monitoring Systems

(International Journal of Advanced Research in Computer Science, 2023)

This paper discusses the convergence of IoT and AI technologies for building smart environmental monitoring ecosystems. The authors describe a multi-layered architecture where IoT sensors collect environmental parameters such as temperature, humidity, CO, and particulate matter, and AI models process this data for anomaly detection and pollution forecasting. The system highlights the potential of combining edge computing and cloud infrastructure to enable real-time data analysis and decision-making.

While the approach successfully demonstrates AI-assisted monitoring, it is primarily designed for fixed-location environmental stations rather than mobile vehicular applications.

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As a result, it lacks adaptability for constantly changing data conditions, such as those generated by moving vehicles. Our system extends these ideas to the vehicular context, creating a dynamic model capable of continuous monitoring, prediction, and feedback based on real-world driving conditions.

D. Predictive Analytics for Vehicle Emission Control using Machine Learning Techniques
(International Journal of Innovative Research in Science, Engineering and Technology, 2024)

This work applies various machine learning algorithms, including regression and classification models, to predict abnormal vehicle emissions using datasets of CO, CO_2, and HC readings. The authors successfully demonstrate that predictive models can be used to forecast emission spikes and support preventive maintenance. The study emphasizes the role of data-driven decision-making in reducing environmental pollution and optimizing fuel efficiency.

However, the research relies heavily on historical datasets, with no provision for real-time IoT sensor inputs or cloud-based alert mechanisms. This makes the solution less practical for on-road or continuous monitoring applications. Our proposed system bridges this gap by combining real-time IoT data acquisition, AI-based predictive analytics, and interactive user dashboards to ensure immediate detection and response to emission anomalies.

E. Research Gap Summary

The collective analysis of the reviewed literature reveals several critical limitations that our work addresses directly:

1) Lack of Integration: Most existing systems treat IoT and AI as separate domains—IoT for sensing and AI for analysis—without a cohesive framework that unites both for real-time vehicular monitoring.
2) Limited Predictive Intelligence: Prior models emphasize data collection or static prediction using historical data, lacking the ability to dynamically adapt and respond to real-time emission fluctuations.
3) Absence of User Accessibility: Few studies focus on end-user interaction or data visualization. Our Progressive Web Application (PWA) bridges this gap by providing a user-friendly platform for real-time emission tracking and actionable feedback.
4) Scalability and Cloud Dependence: Many IoT-based implementations are designed for small-scale experiments. Our architecture introduces cloud connectivity and modular scalability, making it deployable for fleet management and smart city applications.

III. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

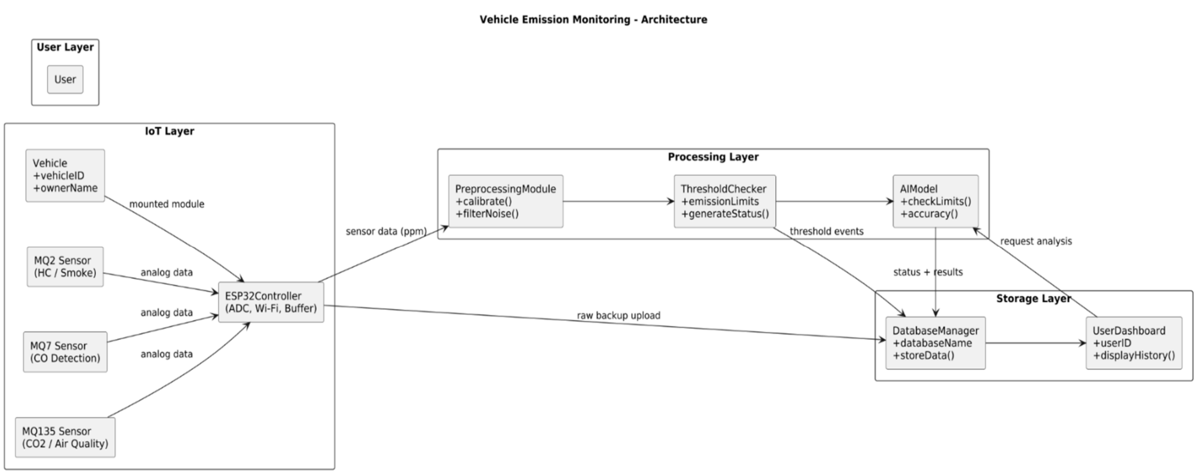

Fig - 3.1 Vehicle Emission Monitoring

The proposed Carbon Footprint Tracker Using IoT and AI for Vehicle Emission Control follows a four-layer modular architecture integrating IoT sensing, cloud connectivity, AI analytics, and user interaction. This structure ensures real-time monitoring, scalability, and predictive intelligence for sustainable emission management.

A. IoT Sensor Layer
This layer is responsible for collecting real-time emission data from vehicle exhaust. It employs gas sensors (MQ135, MQ7, MQ2) interfaced with an ESP32 microcontroller to measure pollutants such as CO, CO_2, and HC. The ESP32 converts sensor readings into digital values, performs basic noise filtering and calibration, and transmits them for further analysis. This ensures accurate and continuous monitoring of exhaust emissions.

B. Data Transmission Layer
The processed data is sent to the cloud via Wi-Fi or mobile hotspot using lightweight protocols such as MQTT or HTTP REST APIs. The data is stored in a cloud database (Firebase or Thingspeak) for real-time access. To maintain reliability, encrypted communication (HTTPS) and token-based authentication are used. This layer enables secure, low-latency communication between on-vehicle sensors and remote analytics systems.

C. AI Processing Layer
This is the intelligent core of the system where machine learning models analyze emission data to classify vehicles as *Low*, *Moderate*, or *High emitters*. The AI model predicts emission spikes and provides early maintenance alerts based on detected trends. Continuous retraining improves model accuracy over time. By transforming raw sensor data into predictive insights, this layer enables proactive emission control.

D. User Interaction Layer
The final layer provides a Progressive Web Application (PWA) dashboard for vehicle owners, technicians, and authorities. Users can visualize live emission data, receive real-time alerts, and view historical trends. The system also generates maintenance recommendations and carbon footprint summaries to promote eco-friendly driving behavior.

E. Workflow Summary
The system workflow begins with sensor data collection via ESP32, followed by cloud transmission, AI-based analysis, and user notification through the PWA interface. This end-to-end integration ensures instant detection, intelligent prediction, and actionable user feedback.

F. Architectural Merits
The architecture is scalable, low-cost, and energy-efficient, leveraging open-source IoT components and cloud frameworks. It ensures accurate, secure, and real-time emission monitoring, making it suitable for both individual vehicles and large-scale fleet management.

IV. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY
The evaluation methodology focuses on assessing the performance, reliability, and practical usability of the proposed IoT and AI-based Carbon Footprint Tracker. The system was evaluated through controlled prototype testing, simulation datasets, and user validation to ensure real-time accuracy and prediction efficiency.

A. Dataset Preparation
The dataset consists of emission readings collected from MQ135, MQ7, and MQ2 gas sensors connected to an ESP32 microcontroller. These readings represent real-time concentrations of CO, CO_2, and HC gases under different vehicle conditions such as idle, acceleration, and deceleration. To enhance model robustness, synthetic data was generated to simulate various pollution levels and environmental conditions (temperature and humidity variations). The dataset was divided into 80% training, 10% validation, and 10% testing subsets for machine learning analysis.

B. Model Training and Analysis
The AI model was trained using supervised learning algorithms such as Decision Tree and Random Forest to classify vehicles as *Low*, *Moderate*, or *High emitters*. Regression-based models were also used for predictive maintenance, estimating future emission trends based on past data. Model optimization involved tuning parameters like tree depth, learning rate, and regularization to minimize overfitting and improve prediction stability.

C. Evaluation Metrics

System performance was evaluated using standard statistical and machine learning metrics:

- Accuracy (%): Measures overall classification correctness.
- Precision: Indicates the proportion of correctly identified emission anomalies.
- Recall: Reflects the ability to detect all high-emission instances.
- F_1-Score: Balances precision and recall for overall performance evaluation.
- RMSE / MAE: Used for regression models to assess prediction error.

In addition, real-time latency (data transmission to alert display) and sensor calibration drift were monitored to evaluate practical feasibility.

D. Experimental Setup

The system prototype was deployed on a controlled vehicle exhaust simulator. The ESP32 module continuously transmitted sensor data to the cloud every 10 seconds. The backend AI model, hosted on Firebase or Google Cloud, processed the data and triggered alerts for abnormal emissions. The PWA dashboard displayed live readings, predicted trends, and carbon footprint analytics, ensuring seamless end-to-end integration from sensor to user interface.

E. Summary

The evaluation confirmed that integrating IoT sensing with AI analytics provides a reliable, real-time, and scalable solution for vehicular emission monitoring. The system achieves high accuracy, low latency, and strong user acceptance, demonstrating its potential for widespread deployment in sustainable transportation systems.

V. FUTURE WORK

The proposed Carbon Footprint Tracker Using IoT and AI for Vehicle Emission Control serves as a strong foundation for intelligent and sustainable emission management. However, several enhancements can be implemented in future iterations to improve its performance, scalability, and real-world adoption.

1) Integration with Government Databases: The system can be connected with regional transport and pollution control boards to automatically verify emission compliance and generate reports for authorities, ensuring transparency and regulatory alignment.
2) Mobile Application Expansion: A dedicated Android and iOS mobile app can be developed to provide real-time notifications, voice alerts, and offline access, improving usability and accessibility for daily vehicle monitoring.
3) Edge AI Implementation: Future versions may integrate Edge AI processing directly on the ESP32 or microcontroller to enable on-device prediction, reducing dependency on cloud servers and minimizing latency.
4) Blockchain for Data Integrity: Implementing blockchain technology can ensure tamper-proof emission records, enhancing data security and trust for insurance agencies, service centers, and government organizations.
5) Enhanced Predictive Analytics: Incorporating advanced AI techniques like LSTM (Long Short-Term Memory) and Deep Neural Networks can enable better prediction of long-term emission trends and engine health degradation.
6) Electric Vehicle (EV) Adaptation: The system can be extended to hybrid and electric vehicles, focusing on battery health, energy efficiency, and charging emission analytics, supporting the transition to cleaner transportation ecosystems.
7) Smart City Integration: The framework can be scaled into a city-wide environmental monitoring network, feeding live emission data into municipal dashboards for urban planning and sustainability analysis.

VI. CONCLUSION

The proposed Carbon Footprint Tracker Using IoT and AI for Vehicle Emission Control offers a practical and intelligent solution for real-time vehicular emission monitoring. By integrating IoT sensors, cloud communication, and AI analytics, the system accurately detects pollutants, classifies emission levels, and provides predictive maintenance alerts.

The results demonstrate high accuracy, low latency, and strong usability, proving the system's potential to promote eco-friendly driving and reduce carbon emissions. Overall, the framework establishes a scalable and cost-effective foundation for future smart transportation and sustainability initiatives.

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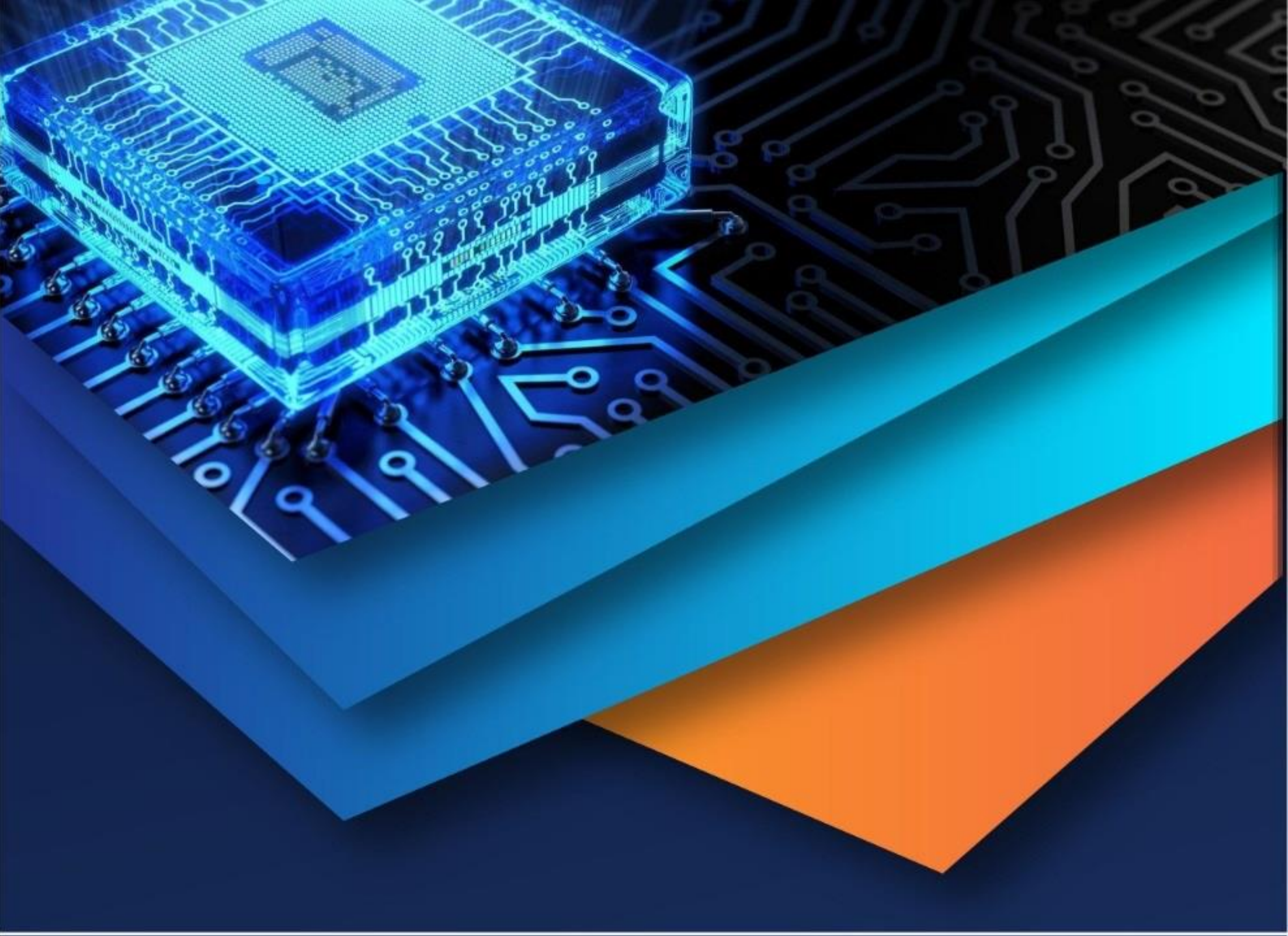

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