

# Advances in Low Carbon Technologies: A Comprehensive Review

Niraj Singh Rathour<sup>1</sup>; Ritu Dogra<sup>2</sup>; Karan Verma<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,3</sup> Department of Processing and Food Engineering, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, India.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Renewable Energy Engineering, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, India.

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**Abstract:** The pressing need to address climate change has fueled remarkable progress in low-carbon technologies (LCTs). This review offers an in-depth analysis of the latest advancements in LCTs, emphasizing their ability to lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across diverse sectors such as energy, transportation, industry, and building infrastructure. It explores pivotal technologies, including renewable energy systems, carbon capture and storage (CCS), measures to enhance energy efficiency, and electrification efforts. Furthermore, it delves into the obstacles and prospects associated with implementing these technologies, alongside the policy and economic frameworks that facilitate their integration. The review underscores the importance of innovation, financial investment, and global cooperation in hastening the shift toward a low-carbon economy.

**Keywords:** Climate Change; Renewable Energy; Innovations; Technologies.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Climate change, largely driven by human activities, is a global crisis that requires urgent attention. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) identifies key greenhouse gases—carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide—as significant contributors to global warming, primarily originating from fossil fuel combustion, deforestation, and industrial operations [6]. Rising global temperatures, already 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels, are causing severe weather events, such as hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires [7]. If unchecked, global temperatures could exceed 2°C, leading to irreversible ecological and socio-economic damage [10]. Low-carbon technologies (LCTs) are vital in mitigating these threats, offering solutions to reduce emissions across energy production, industrial processes, transportation, and agriculture. These include renewable energy systems, carbon capture and storage, energy-efficient designs, and sustainable transport innovations [32]. Transitioning to a sustainable energy system through LCTs is essential for reducing the reliance on fossil fuels and fostering global resilience (BP Statistical Review of World Energy, 2022). Global greenhouse gas emissions have reached approximately 50 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent annually [78]. The energy sector is the largest emitter, responsible for 73.2% of total emissions, mainly due to coal, oil, and natural gas combustion [35]. Renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydro can significantly decarbonize the energy sector [61]. Industry accounts for 19.4% of emissions, with processes such as cement and steel

production requiring advancements like green hydrogen and carbon capture technologies [20]. Transportation contributes 16.2% of emissions, predominantly through road transport, aviation, and shipping. Alternatives such as electric vehicles, biofuels, and hydrogen fuel cells can help reduce these emissions (International Transport Forum, 2023). Agriculture, forestry, and land use add 18.4% of global emissions, driven by livestock farming, deforestation, and fertilizer use [22]. Sustainable practices, reforestation, and soil carbon sequestration are key to lowering emissions in this sector [73]. Buildings, both residential and commercial, contribute 6.4% of emissions, which can be minimized through energy-efficient designs, smart technologies, and sustainable construction materials [77]. The adoption of low-carbon technologies is imperative to achieving the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global temperature rise to below 1.5°C and attaining net-zero emissions by 2050 [10]. Renewable energy technologies, such as solar and wind, are critical for reducing fossil fuel dependence and lowering CO<sub>2</sub> emissions [32]. Enhanced energy efficiency across industries, appliances, and buildings can substantially decrease energy consumption and emissions (World Energy Council, 2023). Carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology is essential for capturing industrial emissions and preventing their release into the atmosphere [25]. Sustainable transportation solutions like electric vehicles and green hydrogen can help decarbonize this sector and reduce air pollution [32]. Circular economy practices, including recycling and waste-to-energy systems, further minimize emissions and resource wastage [19]. To ensure the widespread adoption of LCTs, global

collaboration, robust policy support, and substantial financial investments are necessary [73]. Addressing climate change and its repercussions demands a collective effort. Innovative technologies provide practical solutions for transitioning to a low-carbon economy, mitigating emissions, and meeting international climate targets. Governments, industries, and communities must unite to accelerate the integration of LCTs, ensuring sustainable development and a safer future for all [10].

## II. ADVANCEMENTS AND EMERGING TRENDS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

Advancements in renewable energy technologies (RETs) have emerged as pivotal in addressing climate change and reducing dependency on fossil fuels. These technologies, including solar power, wind energy, hydropower, biomass, and geothermal energy, are revolutionizing the global energy

landscape [35]. Their enhanced efficiency, affordability, and widespread deployment are essential in meeting climate targets such as the Paris Agreement's goal to limit global temperature rise to below 1.5°C (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) [10].

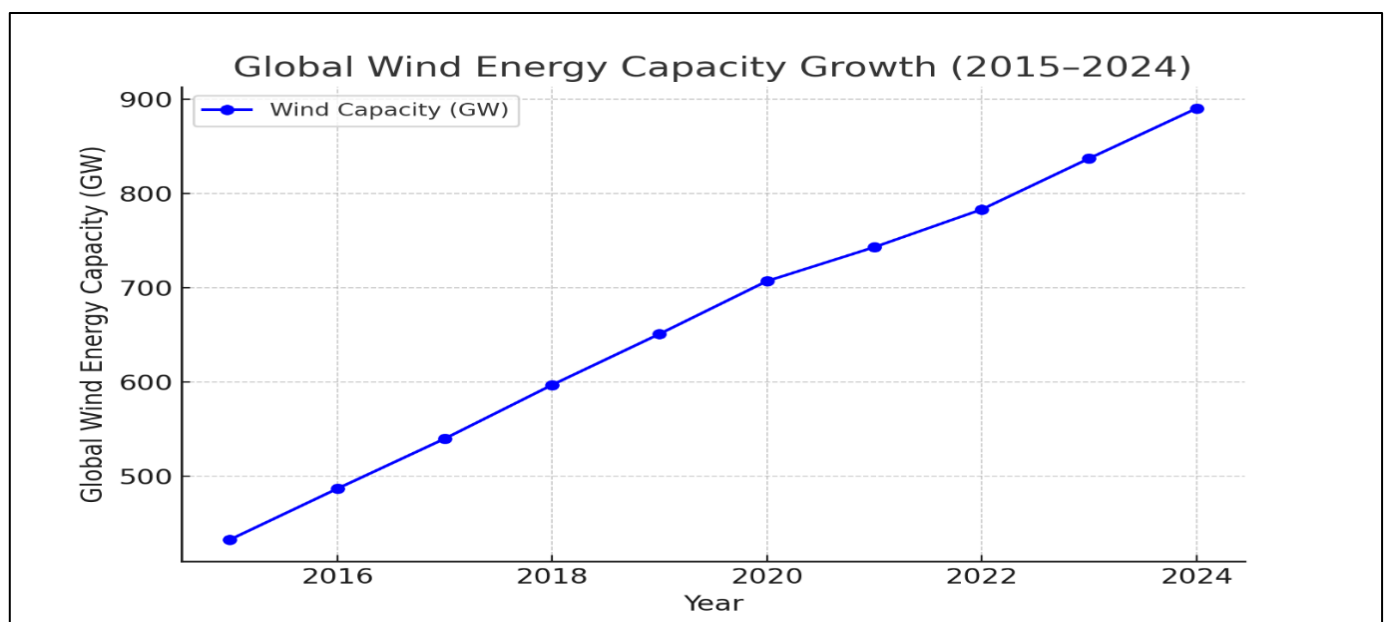
Solar energy stands out as one of the most abundant and promising renewable sources. Traditional silicon-based photovoltaic (PV) cells have achieved efficiency rates of up to 22%, while emerging perovskite solar cells demonstrate potential efficiencies exceeding 30%, alongside reduced production costs and flexibility [13; 41]. Concentrated solar power (CSP) systems further enhance reliability by incorporating molten salt storage technology for continuous electricity generation even during non-sunny periods [15]. Floating solar farms deployed over water bodies provide additional benefits, such as conserving land, minimizing evaporation, and improving overall efficiency [67].

Table 1 A Comparison of Different Solar Technologies Is Presented In

Solar Technology	Efficiency (%)	Cost (\$/Watt)	Key Advantages
Silicon PV Panels	22%	0.20–0.40	Mature, cost-effective
Perovskite Solar Cells	30% (potential)	0.15–0.25	High efficiency, flexible
Bifacial Solar Panels	25%	0.30–0.50	Increased energy capture
Concentrated Solar Power (CSP)	35%	0.12–0.30	Thermal storage for 24/7 power

Wind energy is another vital contributor to global sustainability efforts, with onshore wind farms offering cost-effective solutions and offshore installations capitalizing on stronger, consistent wind speeds [35]. Cutting-edge offshore wind turbines with capacities exceeding 15 MW are

significantly boosting energy production, while floating wind turbines enable power generation in deeper waters [79]. Innovative technologies like AI-driven predictive maintenance and smart sensors optimize turbine performance and reduce operational downtime [13].



Graph 1 Global Wind Energy Capacity Growth (2015–2024)

the graph 1, showing the Global Wind Energy Capacity Growth (2015–2024). This demonstrates the increasing adoption of wind energy worldwide.

Hydropower remains the largest source of renewable electricity, accounting for approximately 16% of global production (World Energy Council, 2023). While large-scale

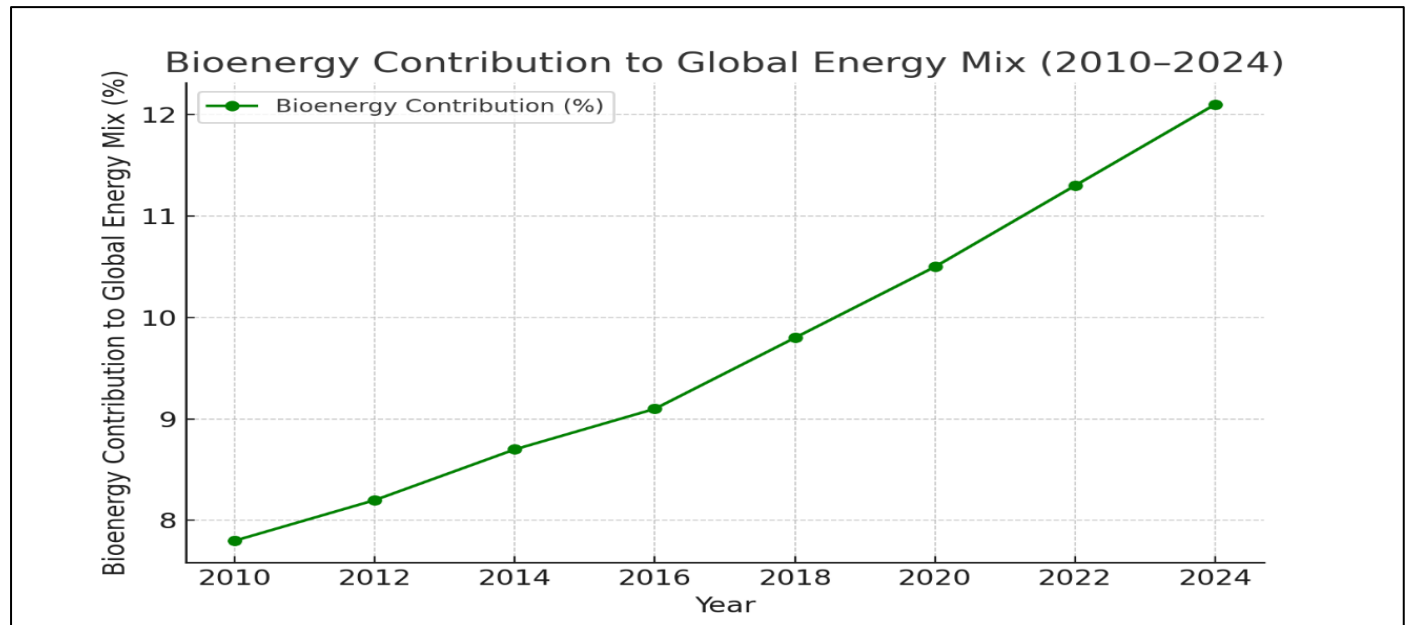
hydroelectric dams have environmental concerns, smaller systems like run-of-river and micro-hydro installations provide sustainable alternatives for rural and off-grid communities. Pumped-storage hydropower (PSH) systems are gaining popularity for their ability to stabilize electricity grids by efficiently managing supply and demand fluctuations (European Hydropower Association, 2023)

Table 2 Compares Various Hydropower Technologies:

Hydropower Type	Capacity Range	Environmental Impact	Primary Applications
Large-Scale Hydro	> 100 MW	High	National grids
Small Hydro	1–100 MW	Low to Medium	Rural electrification
Micro Hydro	< 1 MW	Minimal	Off-grid communities

Biomass and bioenergy contribute significantly to reducing fossil fuel use, especially in the industrial and transportation sectors. Sustainable feedstocks, including agricultural waste, energy crops, and algae-based biofuels, are becoming prominent in bioenergy production [3].

Emerging technologies like bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) allow power generation while achieving net-negative emissions by removing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> [15].



Graph 2 Bioenergy Contribution to Global Energy Mix (2010–2024)

Graph 2, showing the increasing bioenergy contribution to the global energy mix from 2010 to 2024. This trend highlights the growing role of bioenergy as a renewable energy source.

Geothermal energy is known for its exceptional efficiency and reliability. Enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) have expanded the potential of geothermal power

through improved underground heat extraction methods [41]. Beyond electricity generation, geothermal district heating systems are widely used in urban areas like Iceland, the United States, and Europe, offering emission-free heating solutions. Geothermal heat pumps are also gaining traction in residential and commercial buildings for sustainable heating and cooling (Global Geothermal Alliance, 2023).

Table 3 Compares Geothermal Power with Other Renewables:

Energy Source	Efficiency	Reliability	Storage Needs
Solar PV	22–30%	Low (weather-dependent)	High
Wind	35–50%	Medium (wind fluctuations)	High
Geothermal	90%	Very High	Minimal

In conclusion, renewable energy technologies are advancing rapidly and playing a crucial role in achieving a sustainable, low-carbon future. While each technology has its unique challenges, innovations in efficiency, cost reduction, and integration with smart grids continue to drive their adoption. By leveraging diverse energy sources and investing in strategic solutions, the world can transition toward a resilient and carbon-neutral energy system in alignment with global climate objectives [35; 10].

### III. CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE (CCS)

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is a vital technology in the fight against climate change, designed to minimize carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from industrial activities and energy production. The CCS process encompasses three fundamental steps: capture, transport, and storage of CO<sub>2</sub>, effectively preventing its release into the atmosphere [53]. This technology facilitates the transition of industries toward a low-carbon future. The primary methods of CCS include pre-combustion capture, post-combustion capture, and oxy-

fuel combustion, each enhanced by innovations such as advanced materials like metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) and amine-based solvents. Besides geological storage, emerging techniques like mineralization and carbon capture utilization (CCU), which convert captured CO<sub>2</sub> into valuable products, are gaining prominence [51]. These advancements highlight the transformative potential of CCS in achieving global decarbonization goals.

Pre-combustion capture involves isolating CO<sub>2</sub> before fuel combustion by converting fossil fuels into hydrogen and carbon dioxide through gasification or reforming processes. The separated CO<sub>2</sub> is stored, while hydrogen serves as a clean energy source. Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle

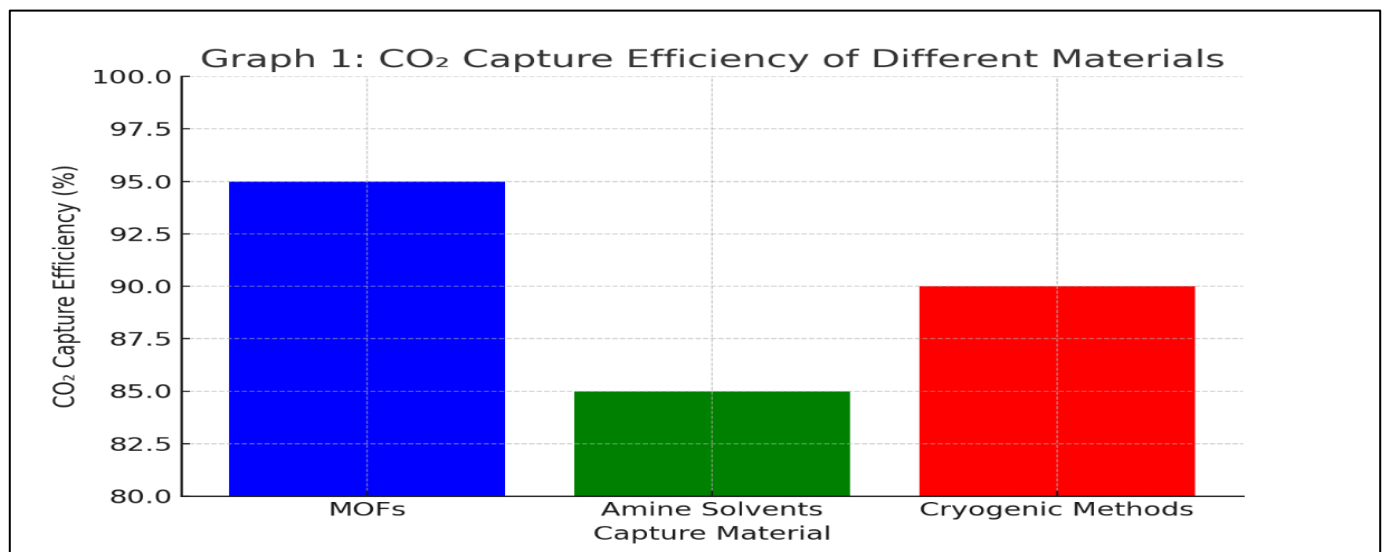
(IGCC) plants utilize this method, achieving CO<sub>2</sub> capture efficiencies of up to 90% [53]. Post-combustion capture, the most widely implemented method, involves removing CO<sub>2</sub> from flue gases using chemical solvents such as amine-based solutions. Advances in hybrid absorbents and next-generation amines have enhanced capture efficiency and minimized energy consumption [49]. On the other hand, oxy-fuel combustion uses pure oxygen instead of air for combustion, producing flue gases primarily composed of CO<sub>2</sub> and water vapor. While this method simplifies CO<sub>2</sub> capture, its implementation has been limited by the high cost of oxygen production. Innovations in oxygen separation membranes and cryogenic air separation techniques aim to reduce these expenses [6].

Table 4 Shows the Comparison of CCS Technologies

Technology	CO <sub>2</sub> Capture Efficiency	Energy Requirement	Main Applications
Pre-Combustion	85-90%	High	Hydrogen production, IGCC plants
Post-Combustion	75-90%	Medium	Coal & gas power plants, cement factories
Oxy-Fuel Combustion	80-95%	High	Power generation, waste incineration

The efficiency of CCS heavily relies on the development of advanced materials for CO<sub>2</sub> capture. Among them, MOFs are porous materials capable of selectively adsorbing CO<sub>2</sub> with higher efficiency and lower energy costs compared to conventional solvents [51]. Amine-based solvents remain a widely used method; however, newer blended amines and ionic liquids have addressed issues such as solvent

degradation and corrosion, offering improved capture rates and reduced energy requirements [68]. Cryogenic technologies, which involve cooling CO<sub>2</sub> to extremely low temperatures for separation, have also gained attention due to their high-purity capture and reduced dependency on chemical solvents [85].



Graph 3 CO<sub>2</sub> Capture Efficiency of Different Materials

Storage of captured CO<sub>2</sub> is achieved through geological sequestration, mineralization, and CCU. Geological storage involves injecting CO<sub>2</sub> into depleted oil and gas reservoirs, saline aquifers, or unmineable coal seams, with monitoring systems ensuring the long-term stability of storage sites [42]. Mineralization, which reacts CO<sub>2</sub> with basalt or ultramafic

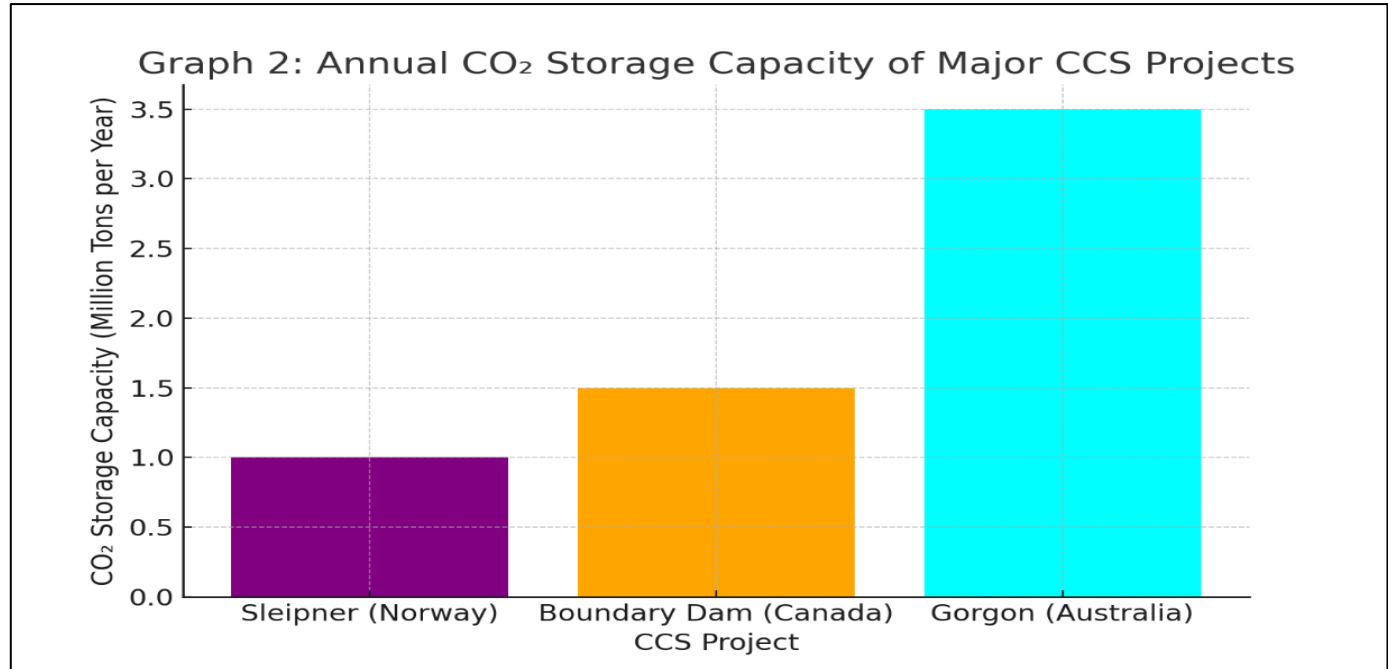
rocks to form stable carbonates, is particularly effective in preventing the re-release of CO<sub>2</sub> [56]. Meanwhile, CCU offers an economic incentive for capturing CO<sub>2</sub> by repurposing it into fuels, chemicals, and materials like methanol and synthetic polymers, though these applications are still in early commercial stages [46].

Table 5 Comparison of CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Methods

Storage Method	Long-Term Stability	Cost	Commercial Viability
Geological Storage	High	Medium	Commercially viable
Mineralization	Very High	High	Early-stage development
CCU	Moderate	Variable	Emerging applications

Several large-scale CCS projects underscore the practical applications of this technology. For instance, Norway’s Sleipner Project has been operational since 1996, successfully storing over 20 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in the Utsira saline formation, serving as a benchmark for offshore CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration [33]. Canada’s Boundary Dam Power Plant, the

first coal-fired facility equipped with CCS, captures 1 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, demonstrating a 90% reduction in emissions [59]. The Gorgon CCS Project in Australia, one of the largest globally, sequesters 3.5–4 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year despite initial challenges, offering valuable lessons in large-scale deployment [26].



Graph 4 Annual CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Capacity of Major CCS Projects

In conclusion, CCS plays a crucial role in global efforts to mitigate climate change by addressing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from major sources. Advances in capture materials, such as MOFs and improved solvents, along with new approaches in cryogenic capture, are enhancing the technology’s efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Furthermore, innovative storage solutions, including geological sequestration, mineralization, and CCU, are expanding the possibilities for long-term carbon management. Case studies from Norway, Canada, and Australia highlight the feasibility and success of CCS in real-world applications. However, continued economic and policy support is essential to scale CCS implementation and meet international climate goals effectively.

IV. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND THE SHIFT TO ELECTRIFICATION

The shift towards energy efficiency and electrification is central to global strategies for reducing carbon emissions and advancing sustainability. Energy efficiency focuses on minimizing energy consumption by optimizing resource use, while electrification replaces fossil fuel-based systems with electricity-powered alternatives supported by renewable and

low-carbon energy sources [11]. This transition spans key sectors such as buildings, transportation, and industry, with technological advancements in smart grids, battery innovation, and process optimization driving progress.

Buildings are significant contributors to global energy consumption, accounting for nearly 40% of total usage and 36% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Implementing energy-efficient measures is critical in reducing their environmental impact (International Energy Agency) [33]. Modern building designs integrate features like passive solar heating, advanced insulation, and smart HVAC systems to curtail energy use. Retrofitting older structures with energy-efficient components, including LED lighting, high-performance windows, and automated control systems, has demonstrated the potential to cut energy demand by up to 50% [69]. Additional innovations, such as Phase Change Materials (PCMs) for thermal energy storage and green roofs, not only improve efficiency but also enhance indoor comfort [17]. Furthermore, Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS), which adjust heating, cooling, and lighting based on occupancy and external conditions, play a vital role in optimizing energy usage.

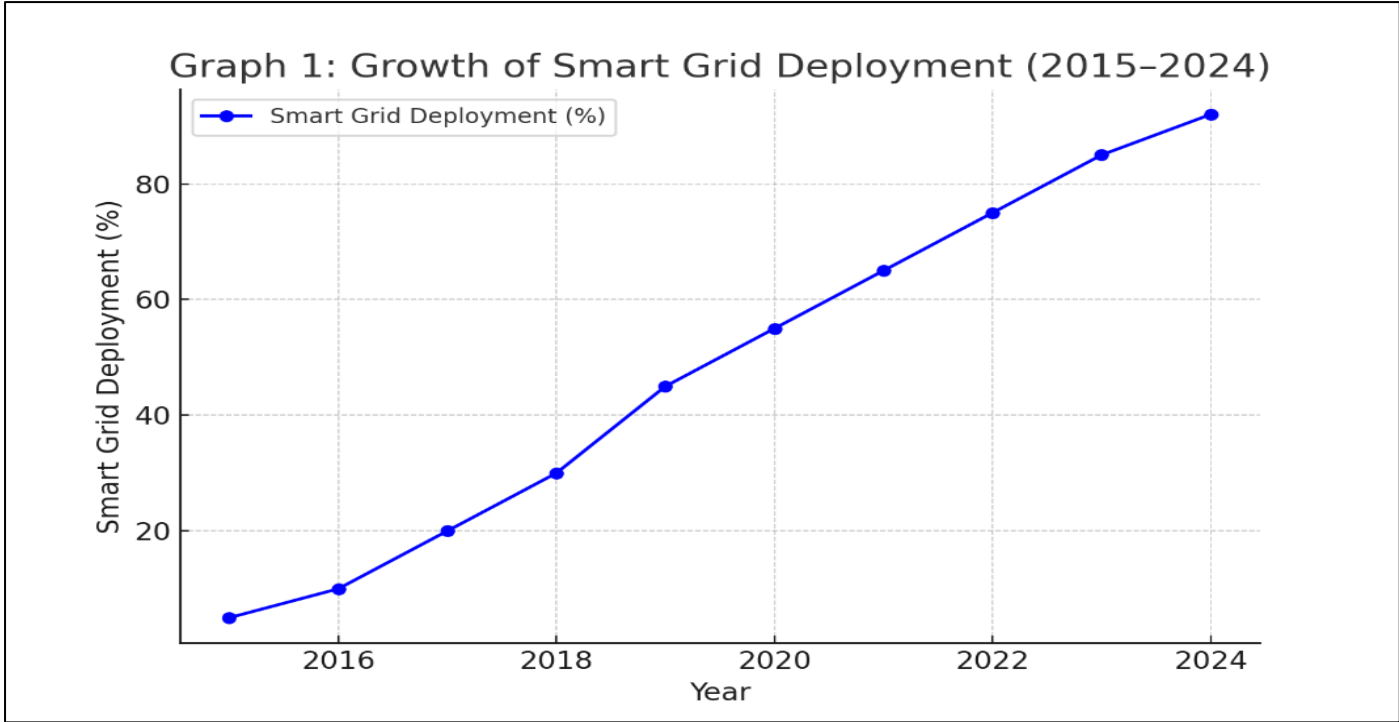
Table 6 Energy Reduction Achieved Through Building Retrofit Technologies

Technology	Energy Reduction (%)	Applicable Sectors
LED Lighting	40–60%	Homes & Commercial Spaces
Smart Thermostats	15–25%	Homes & Office Buildings
High-Efficiency HVAC	30–50%	Large-Scale Facilities
Solar PV Systems	20–40%	Industrial & Residential



In the realm of energy infrastructure, smart grids represent a transformative development. These grids facilitate real-time communication between electricity suppliers and consumers, leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to manage supply and demand effectively. By incorporating renewable energy sources like

solar and wind, smart grids enhance efficiency and reduce grid congestion [74]. Demand-side management (DSM) initiatives, including time-of-use pricing and automated demand response, encourage users to modify their energy consumption patterns according to grid conditions, thereby reducing peak demand by as much as 20–30% .[44]



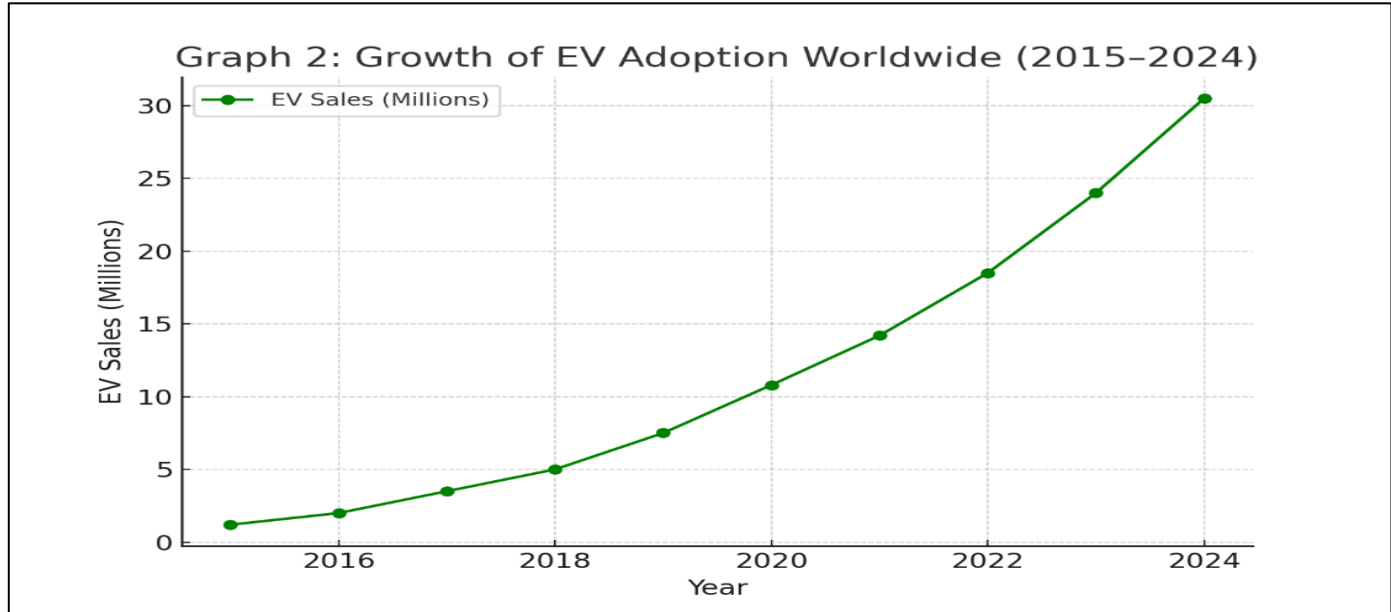
Graph 5 Expansion of Smart Grid Implementation (2015–2024)

The electrification of transportation is a crucial aspect of decarbonization, addressing the significant impact of the sector, which contributes 25% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) has been bolstered by advancements in battery technologies such as solid-state batteries and lithium-sulfur (Li-S) batteries, which offer higher energy densities and faster charging times compared to traditional lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries [71]. The

deployment of fast-charging networks, renewable energy microgrids, and bidirectional vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology further supports EV integration, enhancing convenience and enabling EVs to supply power back to the grid during peak demand [8]. Expanding charging infrastructure, particularly with the inclusion of DC fast-charging stations and wireless systems, addresses key barriers to EV adoption, such as range anxiety.

Table 7 Evaluation of Battery Technologies for Electric Vehicles

Battery Type	Energy Density (Wh/kg)	Charging Duration	Lifespan (Cycles)
Lithium-Ion (Li-ion)	250–300	30–60 min	1,000–2,000
Solid-State Battery	400–500	20–30 min	3,000+
Lithium-Sulfur (Li-S)	500+	15–30 min	1,500–2,500



Graph 6 Growth of EV Adoption Worldwide (2015–2024)

Industries, which are responsible for 30% of global energy consumption, are also undergoing significant advancements in energy efficiency. Digital tools such as AI-driven energy management systems and digital twins are being employed to optimize production processes, reducing energy waste by up to 25% [62]. Waste heat recovery systems, utilizing technologies like heat exchangers and organic Rankine cycles (ORC), can further improve industrial efficiency by capturing and repurposing excess heat, achieving energy savings of up to 30% [52]. Electrification of industrial processes, such as the use of electric arc furnaces (EAFs) in steelmaking and hydrogen-based direct reduced iron (DRI) methods, is eliminating reliance on fossil fuels and paving the way for zero-emission manufacturing [57].

Table 8 Energy Reduction Achieved Through Industrial Efficiency Strategies

Technology	Energy Reduction (%)	Applicable Industries
AI-Enhanced Production	15–25%	Manufacturing
Waste Heat Utilization	20–30%	Steel & Cement Production
Electric Arc Furnaces	30–50%	Steel Manufacturing
Hydrogen-Based DRI	40–50%	Iron & Steel Industry

In conclusion, energy efficiency and electrification are integral to achieving global decarbonization objectives. Technological innovations in smart grids, building designs, electric vehicles, and industrial processes are significantly lowering energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. However, the success of these initiatives requires substantial investment in infrastructure, supportive policy frameworks, and continued advancements in technology. As the world transitions toward a low-carbon future, these efforts will be instrumental in creating sustainable and resilient energy systems.

V. INNOVATIVE LOW-CARBON TECHNOLOGIES

Transitioning to a low-carbon economy is vital for combating climate change and decreasing reliance on fossil fuels. Emerging low-carbon technologies (LCTs) are integral to this shift, offering sustainable solutions across industries, energy production, and transportation. Key advancements include innovations in hydrogen fuel, advanced nuclear energy, carbon-negative technologies, and the integration of digital tools such as artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain to enhance efficiency and scalability [21].

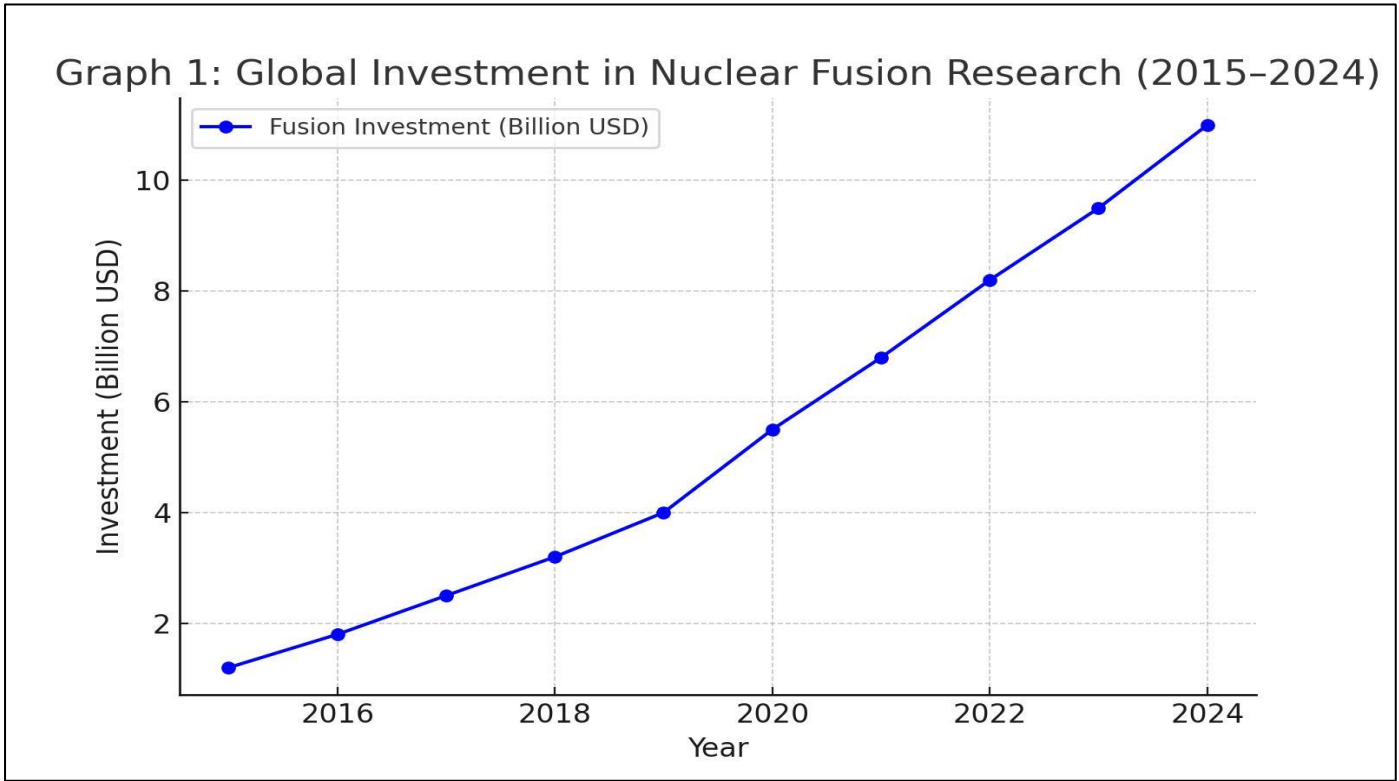
Hydrogen emerges as a promising low-carbon fuel, playing a critical role in decarbonizing sectors like energy, transportation, and industrial production. It is categorized into three types based on its environmental impact: green, blue, and grey hydrogen. Green hydrogen, produced through electrolysis powered by renewable energy, is completely emissions-free but currently limited by high production costs and scalability challenges [18]. Blue hydrogen, derived from natural gas coupled with carbon capture and storage (CCS), emits fewer greenhouse gases than grey hydrogen, although its sustainability depends on the efficiency of CCS systems [75]. Conversely, grey hydrogen, made from natural gas without CCS, remains the most widely used but generates significant CO<sub>2</sub> emissions [2]. To support its adoption, advancements in hydrogen storage methods, such as compressed gas storage, liquid hydrogen, and metal hydrides, are being developed for safer and more efficient use. These technologies pave the way for hydrogen applications in fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs), steel manufacturing, and ammonia synthesis, contributing to a reduced carbon footprint [54].

Table 9 Methods of Hydrogen Production and Associated Emissions

Hydrogen Type	Production Process	CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions (kg CO <sub>2</sub> /kg H <sub>2</sub> )	Key Challenges
Green Hydrogen	Electrolysis using renewables	0	High costs, scalability limits
Blue Hydrogen	Natural gas with CCS	1–2	CCS effectiveness, methane leaks
Grey Hydrogen	Natural gas without CCS	9–12	Significant emissions, unsustainable

Innovations in nuclear energy are also reshaping the renewable energy landscape. Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), a new class of nuclear reactors, offer scalable, cost-efficient, and safer options for carbon-free electricity generation. Their compact design enables factory-based production and deployment in remote areas, with advanced safety systems like passive cooling adding to their appeal

[64]. On the other hand, fusion energy replicates the process powering the sun, producing zero greenhouse gas emissions. Significant progress in fusion technology, particularly in magnetic confinement (e.g., tokamaks) and inertial confinement systems, has been achieved through initiatives such as ITER and SPARC, which aim to commercialize fusion energy by 2040 [59].



Graph 7 Global Investment in Nuclear Fusion Research (2015–2024)

Carbon-negative technologies such as Direct Air Capture (DAC) and biochar provide innovative solutions for actively removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. DAC technologies, developed by companies like Climeworks and Carbon Engineering, utilize chemical or solid adsorbents to directly capture CO<sub>2</sub> from the air. The captured CO<sub>2</sub> can be

stored underground or repurposed for synthetic fuel production [69]. Meanwhile, biochar, a carbon-negative material created through the pyrolysis of organic waste, contributes to carbon sequestration while improving soil quality and water retention, making it particularly impactful in agricultural and forestry applications [81].

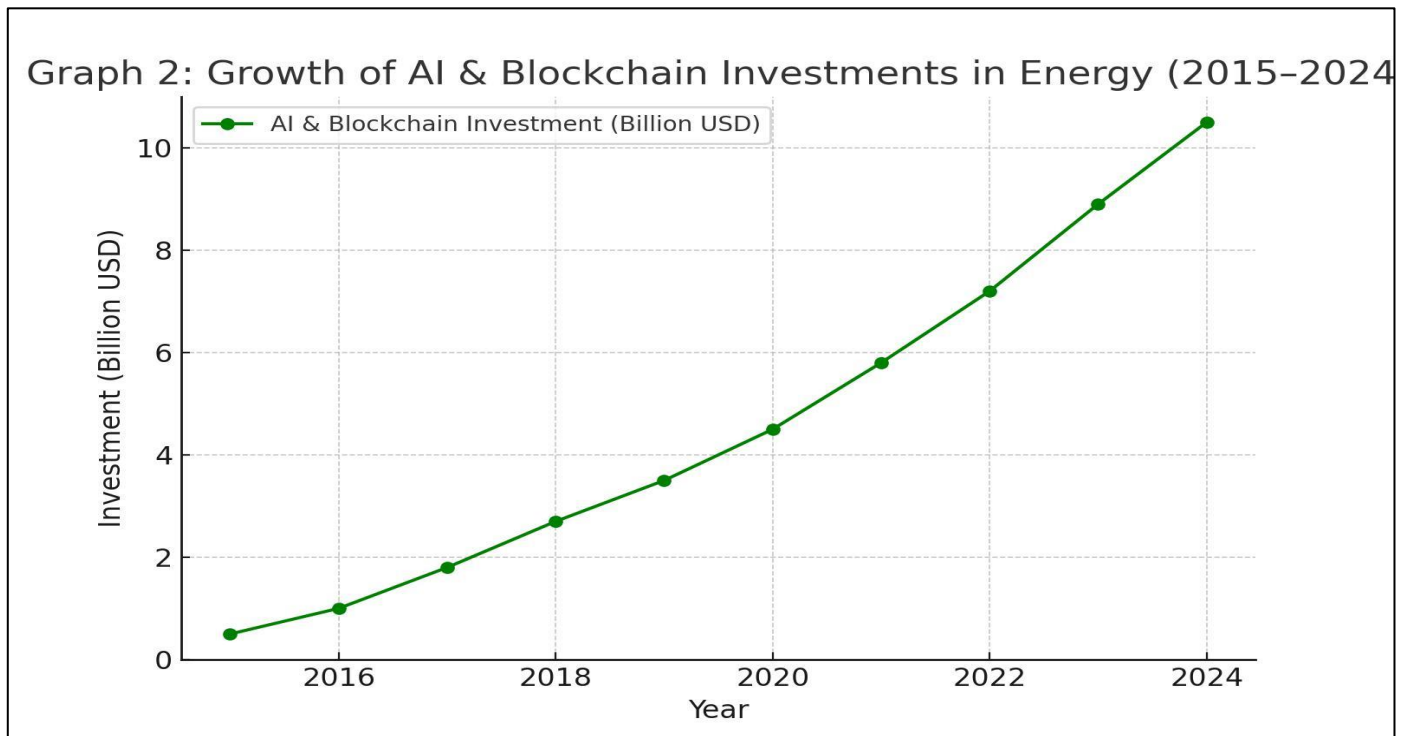
Table 10 Evaluation of Carbon-Negative Technologies

Technology	CO <sub>2</sub> Removal Efficiency	Scalability	Primary Applications
Direct Air Capture (DAC)	High (90%)	Costly	Industrial CO <sub>2</sub> capture, synthetic fuel production
Biochar	Moderate (50%)	Economical	Soil improvement, agricultural use

The integration of LCTs with digital innovations further accelerates their efficiency and scalability. Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled smart grids optimize energy distribution by facilitating real-time management of renewable energy sources, storage systems, and demand response mechanisms [7]. AI-driven systems enhance renewable energy forecasting,

predictive maintenance, and process optimization, significantly reducing reliance on fossil fuel-based systems [50]. Blockchain technology, on the other hand, fosters decentralized energy trading and ensures transparency in carbon credit tracking and green investments, thereby improving the credibility and adoption of sustainable [16].





Graph 8 Growth of AI and Blockchain Investments in Energy (2015–2024)

In conclusion, emerging low-carbon technologies offer transformative solutions for transitioning to a sustainable future. Hydrogen fuel, small modular reactors, and fusion energy present zero-emission alternatives, while carbon-negative technologies like DAC and biochar actively combat atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. Digital technologies, including IoT, AI, and blockchain, play a critical role in enhancing the effectiveness and scalability of these innovations. Although challenges such as high costs, policy constraints, and infrastructure limitations persist, continued research, investment, and supportive policies will be pivotal in realizing the full potential of these technologies in achieving global climate goals.

## VI. OBSTACLES AND LIMITATIONS TO IMPLEMENTING LOW-CARBON TECHNOLOGIES

The widespread adoption of low-carbon technologies (LCTs) is critical for addressing climate change, yet various

challenges hinder their implementation. These barriers, which encompass technical, economic, policy-related, and social factors, must be tackled through technological innovations, financial mechanisms, robust policy frameworks, and community acceptance [9]. Understanding and addressing these obstacles is essential for the successful transition to low-carbon systems.

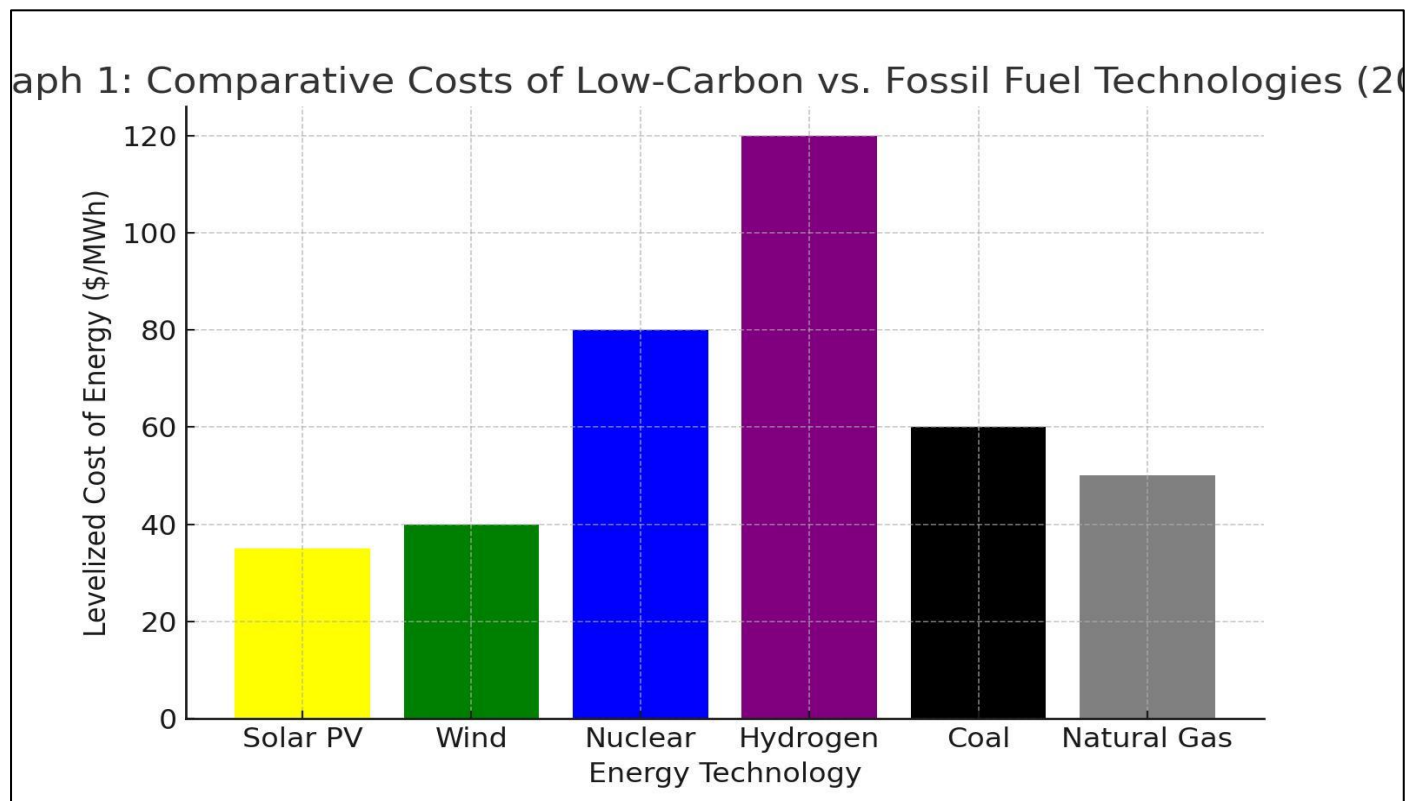
From a technical perspective, scalability remains a significant issue for many LCTs. While pilot projects demonstrate their viability, scaling these technologies to commercial levels has proven challenging. Renewable energy sources like solar and wind require upgrades to existing grids and the integration of advanced energy storage solutions to address their intermittent nature and ensure a reliable supply of electricity [28]. Additionally, traditional fossil-fuel-based power infrastructure is not designed to support decentralized generation and large-scale renewable adoption. This incompatibility necessitates the deployment of smart grids and storage systems to facilitate seamless integration [80].

Table 11 Technical Challenges in Deploying Low-Carbon Technologies

Challenge	Effect on Implementation	Possible Solutions
Scalability Constraints	Restricts large-scale adoption	Increased R&D investment, pilot projects
Grid Integration Issues	Hinders renewable energy adoption	Smart grid systems, energy storage solutions
Reliability Challenges	Causes fluctuations in energy supply	Hybrid energy systems, diversified sources

Economic barriers also pose significant challenges. High upfront costs for deploying technologies like hydrogen fuel cells, direct air capture (DAC), and advanced nuclear reactors often deter investment [38]. These technologies require substantial capital before becoming cost-competitive with fossil fuel alternatives. At the same time, the entrenched fossil fuel market benefits from economies of scale,

established infrastructure, and ongoing subsidies, making it difficult for LCTs to compete [48]. Financial mechanisms such as government subsidies, private-sector investments, and green financing instruments, alongside carbon pricing policies, are necessary to level the playing field for low-carbon technologies.



Graph 9 Comparative Costs of Low-Carbon and Fossil Fuel Technologies (2025)

Policy and regulatory inconsistencies further complicate the deployment of LCTs. In many regions, conflicting policies—such as promoting renewable energy while subsidizing fossil fuels—create uncertainty and hinder investment [43]. Moreover, varying carbon pricing mechanisms and emission reduction targets across nations fragment markets and slow progress. Lengthy approval

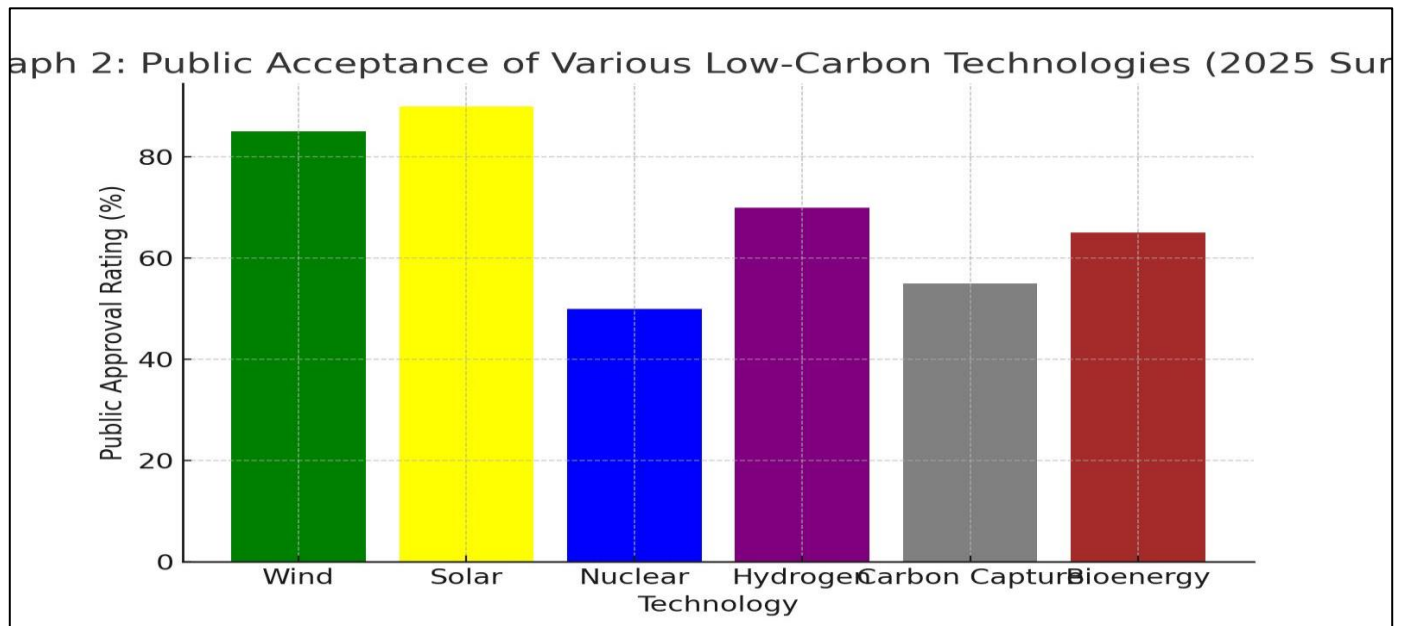
processes for renewable energy projects exacerbate the issue, delaying their implementation [24]. A stable and streamlined regulatory framework, coupled with strengthened international coordination, is crucial for advancing LCT adoption. For example, carbon pricing, standardized regulations, and streamlined permitting processes can significantly boost low-carbon investments.

Table 12 Policy Challenges and Possible Solutions

Barrier	Effect on Low-Carbon Technology Adoption	Proposed Solution
Inconsistent Regulations	Creates investment uncertainty	Establishing uniform policies
Lengthy Approval Processes	Causes delays in implementation	Simplifying permit procedures
Poor Coordination	Leads to uneven global advancements	Strengthening international cooperation

Public perception and social acceptance are critical to the successful adoption of low-carbon technologies. Resistance to innovations such as nuclear energy, wind farms, and carbon capture and storage (CCS) often stems from safety concerns, misinformation, and environmental impact fears [29]. Educating the public about the benefits of these

technologies through awareness campaigns can build trust and promote acceptance. Additionally, a just transition is essential for communities reliant on fossil fuel industries. Providing job retraining programs and economic support to affected workers ensures equitable opportunities and minimizes resistance to change.



Graph 10 Public Acceptance of Various Low-Carbon Technologies (2025 Survey)

In conclusion, the adoption of low-carbon technologies faces diverse challenges, ranging from technical limitations and economic barriers to policy hurdles and social resistance. However, these obstacles can be addressed through targeted strategies such as fostering innovation, offering financial support, enacting stable policies, and engaging communities. As global efforts to achieve net-zero emissions intensify, overcoming these barriers will be crucial for transitioning to a sustainable and resilient energy future.

## VII. REGULATORY AND ECONOMIC STRATEGIES FOR ADVANCING LOW-CARBON TECHNOLOGIES

The widespread deployment of low-carbon technologies (LCTs) requires robust policy and economic frameworks to drive innovation, reduce emissions, and achieve sustainability objectives. Governments play an essential role in this effort by implementing measures such as carbon pricing, renewable energy mandates, and financial incentives. Additionally, international collaborations like the Paris Agreement and Mission Innovation bolster global progress toward clean energy solutions. Financial mechanisms, including green bonds, climate funds, and public-private

partnerships (PPPs), are instrumental in mobilizing capital for large-scale adoption of LCTs [81].

One of the most effective tools for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is carbon pricing, which assigns a financial cost to carbon pollution to encourage reductions. The two main approaches are carbon taxes, which levy a direct fee on emissions, and emissions trading systems (ETS), also known as cap-and-trade, which allow companies to trade carbon allowances within a capped system. Successful implementation of these policies has been demonstrated in countries like Sweden and Canada, where carbon pricing has led to significant emission reductions alongside economic growth [14; 4]. Additionally, renewable energy subsidies, tax incentives, and feed-in tariffs (FITs) play a crucial role in lowering the financial barriers for deploying clean energy technologies like solar, wind, and hydrogen. Research and development (R&D) grants further support innovation and advance emerging technologies [54]. Renewable portfolio standards (RPS) have also been effective; for instance, the European Union's Green Deal aims for a 45% renewable energy share by 2030, while China has committed to large-scale solar and wind energy expansion [38].

Table 13 Carbon Pricing Strategies and Renewable Energy Targets by Country

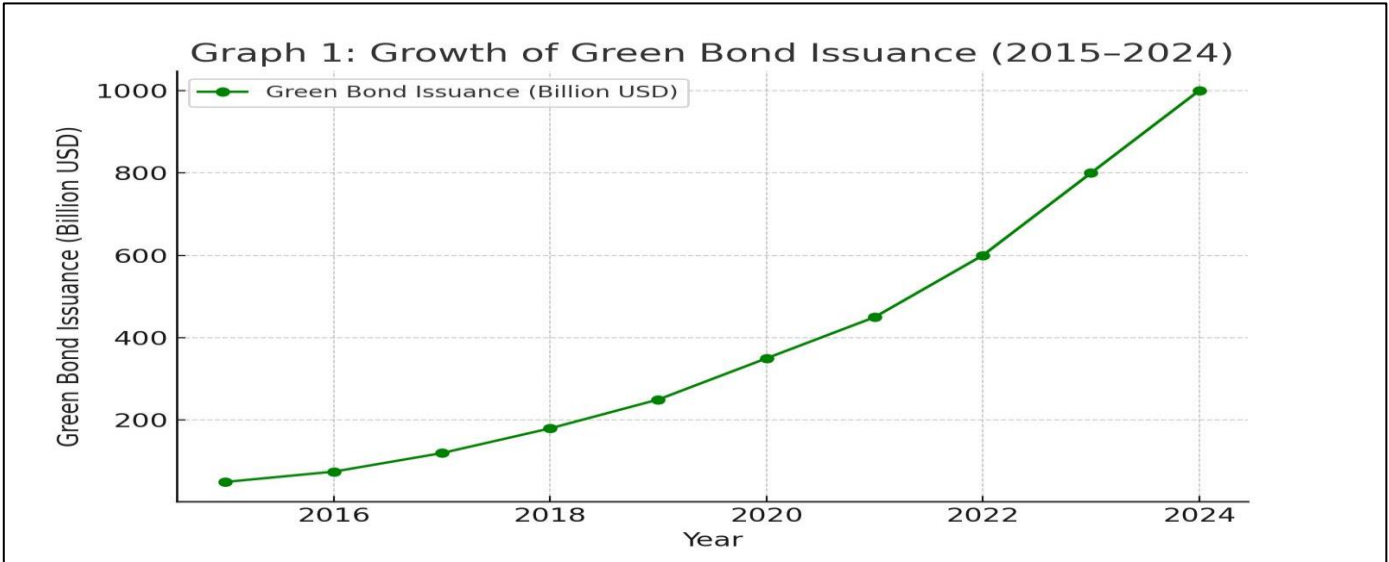
Country	Carbon Pricing Strategy	Renewable Energy Goal
Sweden	\$137/ton carbon tax	100% renewable energy by 2040
Canada	\$65/ton carbon tax	90% renewable energy by 2030
European Union	Emissions Trading System (ETS)	45% renewable share by 2030
China	National ETS in place	1,200 GW of solar & wind by 2030

Global agreements and initiatives are crucial for fostering low-carbon innovation on an international scale. The Paris Agreement, signed in 2015, encourages countries to commit to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that outline progressive emissions reduction targets [36]. Mission Innovation, launched the same year, focuses on accelerating public and private investment in clean energy

research and development, mobilizing over \$30 billion for advancements in hydrogen, battery technology, and carbon capture systems [5]. Furthermore, global financial mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the World Bank's Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) offer critical financial support to developing nations, enabling them to implement low-carbon projects [41].

Financial tools such as green bonds, climate funds, and PPPs are indispensable for scaling LCTs. Green bonds, designed to fund projects like renewable energy deployment and sustainable transport infrastructure, have seen substantial growth, with the global market reaching \$1.5 trillion in 2024. Countries like China, the United States, and members of the European Union are leading issuers in this market [69]. Climate funds, including the GCF, provide grants and low-

interest loans for climate-resilient and low-carbon projects. Public-private partnerships, meanwhile, facilitate collaboration between governments and private firms to develop large-scale renewable projects. Notable examples include the UAE’s Noor Solar Park and Denmark’s offshore wind farms, both developed with significant private-sector participation.



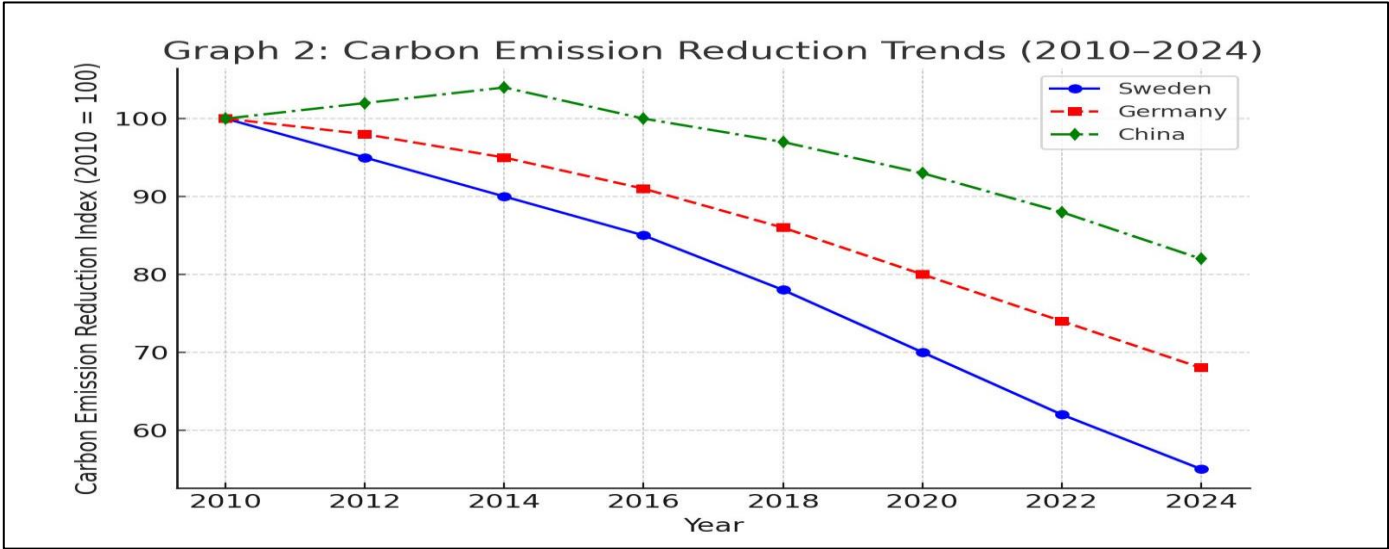
Graph 11 Growth of Green Bond Issuance (2015–2024)

Several countries have demonstrated the success of policy frameworks in advancing low-carbon technologies. Sweden, for instance, implemented a carbon tax of \$137 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> in 1991, resulting in a substantial decrease in fossil fuel use. Today, more than 55% of Sweden’s electricity comes from renewable sources [30]. Germany’s Energiewende (Energy Transition) policy has accelerated the adoption of

solar and wind power, supported by feed-in tariffs and incentives for energy storage and grid modernization. The policy aims to phase out coal by 2038 and increase renewable energy’s share to 50% by 2030 [14]. China’s national ETS, the largest carbon market globally, covers over 4.5 billion tons of annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and is expected to reduce emissions by 30% by 2030 [81].

Table 14 Effects of Major Policy Measures

Policy	Country	Outcome
Carbon Tax	Sweden	55% of electricity sourced from renewables
Energiewende Initiative	Germany	50% contribution from wind and solar energy
Emissions Trading System (ETS)	China	30% emissions reduction target by 2030



Graph 12 Carbon Emission Reduction Trends in Countries with Strong LCT Policies (2010–2024)

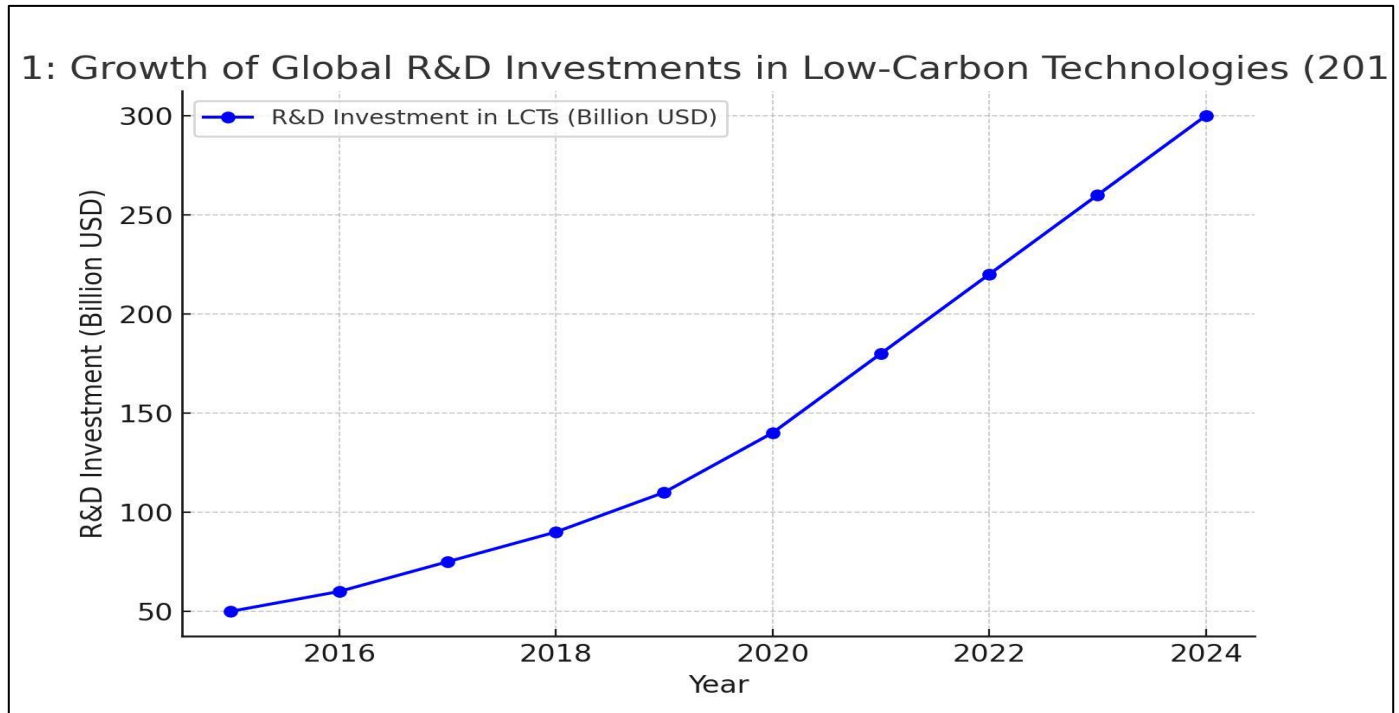
In summary, effective policies and economic frameworks are essential to expanding low-carbon technologies. Through mechanisms like carbon pricing, financial incentives, and renewable energy mandates, governments can drive clean energy adoption. International agreements and financial tools further enable global collaboration and investment. Examples from Sweden, Germany, and China highlight how targeted policy measures can advance low-carbon innovation. Moving forward, harmonizing regulations, fostering international cooperation, and strengthening green financing mechanisms will be critical to achieving a sustainable, low-carbon future.

VIII. FUTURE PATHWAYS AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The need to mitigate climate change and address environmental degradation has amplified global efforts toward developing and deploying low-carbon technologies (LCTs). These technologies provide a promising route to achieving net-zero emissions and decreasing dependence on fossil fuels. However, widespread adoption of LCTs

necessitates continuous research and development (R&D), interdisciplinary collaboration, enhanced education, and the exploration of transformative innovations. The integration of effective policies, financial mechanisms, and technological advancements will be pivotal in shaping the energy systems of the future [1].

Investments in R&D are critical for creating cost-effective and scalable LCT solutions. For instance, advancements in next-generation solar photovoltaic (PV) technologies, such as perovskite solar cells, are paving the way for higher efficiency compared to traditional silicon-based PV cells [27]. Similarly, progress in floating offshore wind turbine designs is expanding the potential for wind energy utilization in previously inaccessible regions [62]. Another priority area is green hydrogen, which is produced using renewable electricity and is essential for decarbonizing industrial processes and heavy transport sectors [57]. Additionally, decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors like cement, steel, and aviation requires targeted solutions such as electrification, synthetic fuels, and carbon capture and utilization (CCU) technologies.



Graph 13 Growth of Global R&D Investments in Low-Carbon Technologies (2015–2024)

Deploying LCTs requires a holistic approach that combines engineering innovations, economic strategies, and societal acceptance. For example, engineering efforts focus on improving grid-scale energy storage technologies, such as solid-state batteries, to enable the efficient integration of renewable energy sources. Simultaneously, economic policies like carbon pricing mechanisms, green bonds, and tax

incentives attract necessary investments in LCT infrastructure [78]. Moreover, public perception significantly influences the acceptance of technologies like nuclear energy and carbon capture and storage (CCS). Enhancing societal understanding through awareness campaigns and community engagement is vital to overcoming resistance and advancing deployment [60].

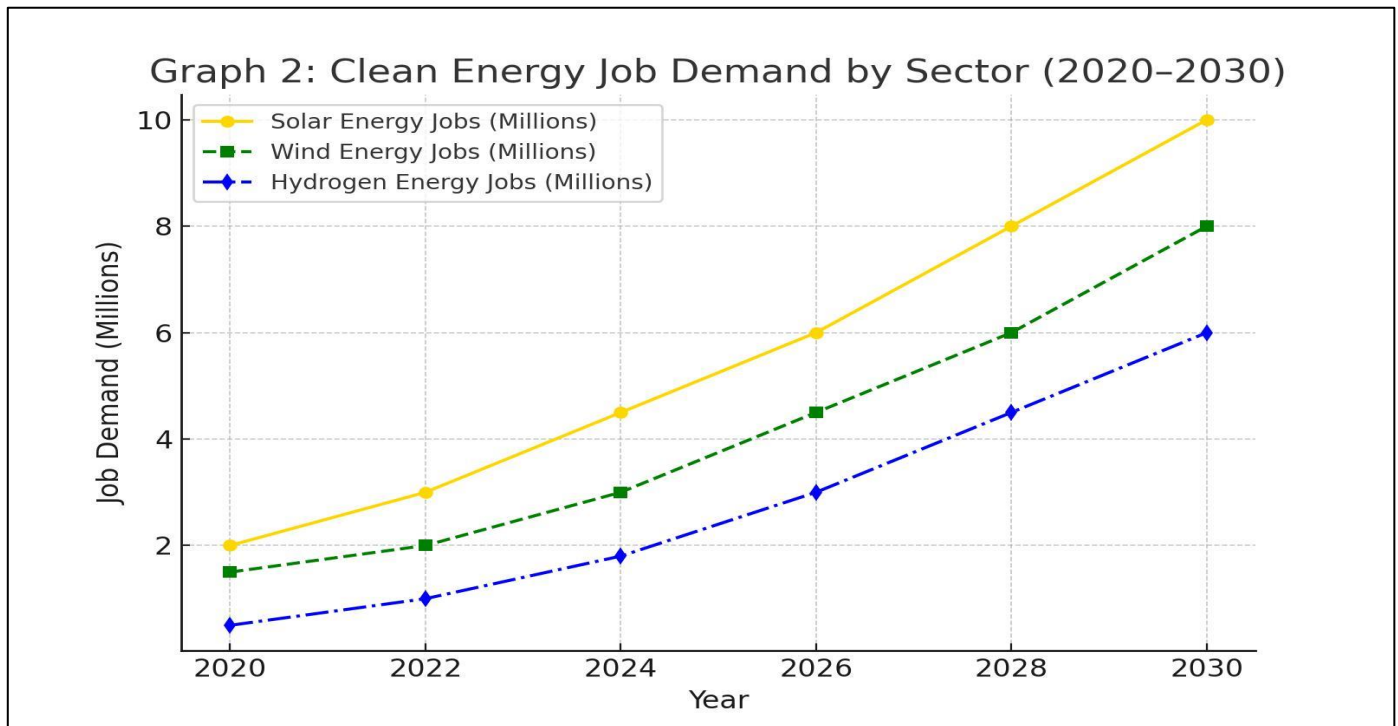
Table 15 Major Cross-Disciplinary Challenges in Deploying Low-Carbon Technologies

Discipline	Primary Challenge	Possible Solution
Engineering	High costs of advanced energy storage	Increased R&D investment for scalable solutions
Economics & Finance	Insufficient funding for green infrastructure	Green bonds, carbon pricing incentives
Social Sciences	Public skepticism toward nuclear and CCS	Awareness initiatives, stakeholder involvement



Education and capacity-building programs play a critical role in fostering innovation and creating a skilled workforce capable of supporting the clean energy transition. Academic institutions and industry partnerships should collaborate to integrate LCT-focused topics, such as renewable energy engineering, climate policy, and sustainable economics, into STEM curricula [62]. Reskilling

programs for workers transitioning from fossil fuel industries can also ensure equitable job opportunities in the clean energy sector. Moreover, international knowledge-sharing initiatives will enhance collaboration among researchers, governments, and industries, facilitating the global exchange of ideas and best practices.



Graph 14 Growth of Clean Energy Job Demand by Sector (2020–2030, Projected)

The future of LCTs will also be shaped by transformative innovations in emerging technologies. Artificial intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing grid optimization by predicting energy demand, enhancing efficiency, and managing renewable energy integration [64]. Fusion energy, as demonstrated by projects like ITER and SPARC, holds the potential to provide unlimited, emissions-free power, with commercialization expected by 2040 [12].

Direct air capture (DAC) technologies, equipped with advanced adsorption materials, are making large-scale carbon removal increasingly viable [57]. Additionally, next-generation battery technologies, such as sodium-ion and solid-state batteries, are emerging as sustainable alternatives to lithium-ion batteries, addressing supply chain and environmental challenges [62].

Table 16 Emerging Low-Carbon Technologies and Projected Development Timeline

Technology	Estimated Commercial Launch	Potential Benefits
AI for Grid Optimization	2025–2030	Improved energy efficiency
Fusion Energy	2035–2040	Virtually limitless clean power
Direct Air Capture (DAC)	2030–2040	Carbon-negative advancements
Next-Generation Batteries	2027–2035	Enhanced grid storage & EV growth

So, the future of low-carbon technologies hinges on sustained investments in R&D, interdisciplinary collaboration, and capacity-building initiatives. Combining engineering, economic, and social perspectives ensures these technologies are feasible, affordable, and widely accepted. Furthermore, breakthroughs in AI, fusion energy, carbon capture, and battery technologies will play a critical role in enabling deep decarbonization by 2050. Addressing these research priorities will accelerate the transition to a sustainable and resilient energy future.

## IX. CONCLUSION

The progression and integration of low-carbon technologies (LCTs) are crucial in addressing climate change and realizing global sustainability ambitions. Breakthroughs in renewable energy, carbon capture, energy efficiency, and electrification have showcased their ability to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions across a variety of industries. However, widespread adoption of these technologies is often hindered by challenges such as scalability limitations, financial constraints, inconsistent policies, and societal

resistance. To tackle these obstacles, consistent investment in research and development, the establishment of robust policy frameworks, and the provision of financial incentives are indispensable. Strengthened global collaboration, innovative technological advancements, and an interdisciplinary approach can further accelerate the shift toward a low-carbon economy. The integration of cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence, next-generation batteries, and hydrogen solutions has the potential to enhance energy security, stimulate economic growth, and support long-term environmental preservation. Ultimately, the effective implementation of LCTs will be instrumental in building a cleaner, more sustainable, and resilient future.

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