Multidisciplinary Journal of Research in Engineering and Technology
ISSN: 2348-6953
Volume 13 Issue 2 (2026) | Pages: 127–132

Energy-Efficient Routing Algorithms for AI-Enabled Internet of Things Networks

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Peer Review Information

Type: *Article*
Received: *10 February 2026*
Revised: *13 March 2026*
Accepted: *16 April 2026*
Published: *28 may 2026*

Abstract

The rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies has significantly transformed modern communication infrastructures by enabling intelligent sensing, real-time analytics, autonomous decision-making, and large-scale smart device connectivity. AI-enabled IoT networks are increasingly deployed in smart cities, healthcare systems, industrial automation, transportation systems, agriculture, environmental monitoring, and intelligent surveillance applications. However, the continuous expansion of IoT ecosystems introduces major challenges related to energy consumption, routing efficiency, network scalability, communication latency, bandwidth utilization, and resource-constrained sensor operations. Traditional routing protocols often experience limitations in dynamic IoT environments due to inefficient energy management, unbalanced network traffic, excessive communication overhead, and reduced adaptability to changing network conditions. These limitations significantly affect network lifetime, operational reliability, and intelligent communication performance in AI-assisted IoT systems. To address these challenges, this research proposes Energy-Efficient Routing Algorithms for AI-Enabled Internet of Things Networks that integrate Artificial Intelligence, adaptive routing optimization, machine learning-assisted traffic management, intelligent clustering, and energy-aware communication mechanisms into a unified IoT networking framework. The proposed architecture utilizes AI-driven routing intelligence to dynamically optimize data transmission paths, minimize communication energy consumption, balance network workloads, and improve packet delivery efficiency across distributed IoT environments. The framework incorporates deep learning-based traffic prediction, intelligent node selection, adaptive route discovery, and energy-aware cluster management to enhance network sustainability and operational scalability. Furthermore, the proposed system integrates real-time network monitoring, intelligent fault tolerance, and adaptive communication orchestration for supporting large-scale next-generation IoT infrastructures.

Keywords: Internet of Things, Energy-Efficient Routing, Artificial Intelligence, IoT Networks, Machine Learning, Intelligent Routing.

How to Cite This Article

Pichlerová, V. (2026). Energy-Efficient Routing Algorithms for AI-Enabled Internet of Things Networks. *Multidisciplinary Journal of Research in Engineering and Technology* 13(2), 127–132.

Introduction

The rapid advancement of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) has significantly transformed modern communication infrastructures into intelligent, interconnected, and autonomous networking ecosystems. IoT networks consist of billions of interconnected smart devices, wireless sensors, embedded systems, mobile nodes, and intelligent communication platforms that continuously exchange data for real-time monitoring, automation, and intelligent decision-making. AI-enabled IoT systems are increasingly deployed in smart cities, industrial automation, healthcare systems, intelligent transportation, agriculture, environmental monitoring, smart grids, surveillance infrastructures, and military communication networks. These smart environments require efficient communication frameworks capable of supporting large-scale device connectivity, low-latency communication, adaptive routing, intelligent resource management, and energy-efficient network operations.

One of the most critical challenges in IoT networks is energy consumption. Most IoT devices and wireless sensor nodes operate using limited battery resources and constrained computational capabilities. Continuous data transmission, routing operations, network monitoring, and communication overhead significantly increase energy consumption and reduce network lifetime. In large-scale IoT environments, inefficient routing protocols may cause excessive packet retransmissions, unbalanced network traffic, node congestion, communication delay, and rapid battery depletion of sensor nodes. These limitations negatively affect communication reliability, network scalability, operational sustainability, and intelligent automation capability in next-generation IoT ecosystems.

Traditional routing protocols designed for wireless sensor networks and conventional communication infrastructures often fail to efficiently manage highly dynamic AI-enabled IoT environments. Conventional routing algorithms generally rely on static path selection, shortest-path communication, or predefined clustering strategies without considering real-time network conditions, residual node energy, communication workload, and intelligent traffic prediction. As IoT networks continue to expand in scale and complexity, traditional routing mechanisms become increasingly insufficient for supporting adaptive communication and energy-efficient networking requirements.

Energy-efficient routing has therefore become a major research area for improving communication sustainability and extending the operational lifetime of IoT infrastructures. Energy-aware routing protocols aim to optimize packet transmission paths, minimize communication overhead, reduce unnecessary energy consumption, and balance network workloads among sensor nodes. Efficient routing mechanisms can significantly improve network reliability, packet delivery ratio, throughput, fault tolerance, and communication efficiency in resource-constrained IoT environments. However, achieving optimal routing performance in large-scale dynamic IoT networks remains a challenging problem due to changing network topology, node mobility, traffic congestion, communication interference, and heterogeneous device configurations.

Literature Review

Heinzelman, Chandrakasan, and Balakrishnan (2000) proposed the Low-Energy Adaptive Clustering Hierarchy (LEACH) protocol for wireless sensor networks [1]. LEACH introduced cluster-based communication mechanisms where cluster heads aggregate and forward sensor data to reduce communication overhead and energy consumption. The study demonstrated that dynamic cluster formation significantly improves network lifetime and energy efficiency in sensor networks. However, the protocol experienced limitations related to random cluster-head selection and inefficient adaptability to dynamic network conditions.

Lindsey and Raghavendra (2002) introduced the PEGASIS protocol, an energy-efficient chain-based routing algorithm designed to reduce communication overhead in wireless sensor networks [2]. The protocol organized sensor nodes into communication chains to minimize long-distance transmissions and optimize energy utilization. Experimental results demonstrated improved network lifetime compared with conventional cluster-based protocols. Nevertheless, the routing strategy introduced higher communication delay and reduced scalability in large-scale dynamic IoT environments.

Akyildiz et al. (2002) conducted a comprehensive survey on wireless sensor networks and highlighted major challenges related to energy efficiency, communication reliability, network scalability, and adaptive routing [3]. The researchers emphasized that routing protocols must consider node energy conditions, communication workload, and dynamic network topology to improve operational sustainability. The study established the importance of intelligent communication management in resource-constrained IoT environments.

Atzori, Iera, and Morabito (2010) investigated IoT architectures and communication challenges within large-scale smart networking environments [4]. The study demonstrated that IoT systems require scalable routing frameworks capable of supporting heterogeneous device connectivity and adaptive communication management. The researchers identified energy consumption, communication overhead, and network congestion as critical challenges affecting IoT scalability and operational efficiency.

Chen et al. (2017) explored machine learning-assisted communication optimization for large-scale IoT environments [5]. The study demonstrated that AI-based analytics significantly improve communication efficiency, intelligent traffic management, and adaptive routing optimization. The researchers concluded that machine learning models enable IoT systems to dynamically adjust routing strategies according to changing network conditions and operational requirements.

Ning and Liu (2015) proposed an intelligent cyber-physical-social IoT framework integrating AI-driven communication and adaptive networking mechanisms [6]. The study emphasized that intelligent communication orchestration and energy-aware networking are essential for future autonomous IoT ecosystems. However, the framework required more advanced routing intelligence and real-time adaptive learning mechanisms for large-scale distributed IoT infrastructures.

Methodology

The proposed AI-Assisted Energy-Efficient Routing Framework is designed to provide intelligent, scalable, adaptive, and low-energy communication management for AI-enabled Internet of Things (IoT) environments. The framework integrates Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning-assisted routing optimization, intelligent clustering, adaptive communication management, and energy-aware networking mechanisms into a unified IoT communication ecosystem. The primary objective of the proposed architecture is to improve network lifetime, packet delivery performance, communication reliability, routing adaptability, and energy efficiency within large-scale smart IoT infrastructures.

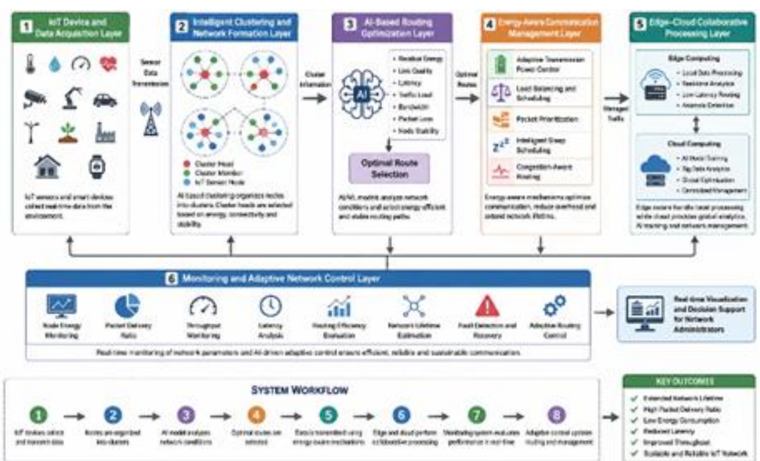

Fig 1. *AI-Assisted Energy-Efficient Routing Framework for IoT Networks*

Algorithmic Strategy

The proposed AI-Assisted Energy-Efficient Routing Framework utilizes an intelligent routing optimization strategy that integrates Artificial Intelligence (AI), adaptive clustering, machine learning-assisted traffic prediction, energy-aware communication management, and cloud-edge collaborative networking for IoT environments. The algorithmic framework is designed to provide low-energy communication, intelligent route selection, adaptive workload balancing, congestion-aware transmission, and scalable networking within AI-enabled Internet of Things ecosystems.

Mathematical Model for IoT Network Representation Let the IoT network contain multiple sensor nodes represented as: $$N = \{n1, n2, n3, \dots, nk\}$$ Where: nkn_knk represents IoT sensor devices and communication nodes.	ErE_rEr = Residual node energy, EiE_iEi = Initial node energy, EcE_cEc = Energy consumed during communication This model continuously monitors energy conditions for intelligent routing decisions. *Intelligent Cluster Formation Model*

The communication links between nodes are represented as: $$L = \{l1, l2, l3, \dots, lm\}$$ Where: lml_mlm = Communication paths between IoT devices. Each node generates sensor information represented as: $$D = \{d1, d2, d3, \dots, dn\}$$ Where: DDD = IoT sensor data packets. The residual energy of each node is represented as: $$Er = Ei - Ec$$ Where:	The proposed framework dynamically organizes sensor nodes into communication clusters using AI-assisted clustering mechanisms. The cluster-head selection probability is represented as: $$Pch = DtEr + Nc + Sf$$ Where: PchP_{ch}Pch = Cluster-head selection probability, ErE_rEr = Residual node energy, NcN_cNc = Node connectivity, SfS_fSf = Signal strength factor, DtD_tDt = Transmission distance Nodes with higher residual energy and stronger communication stability are selected as cluster heads.

Results and Performance Evaluation

The proposed AI-Assisted Energy-Efficient Routing Framework for IoT Networks was evaluated using multiple communication and networking performance metrics related to energy consumption, packet delivery ratio, throughput, communication latency, routing efficiency, network lifetime, congestion control, and scalability. The experimental analysis compared the proposed framework with traditional wireless sensor routing protocols and conventional IoT communication architectures.

The evaluation environment consisted of distributed IoT sensor nodes, wireless communication devices, intelligent edge nodes, cloud infrastructures, and AI-assisted routing optimization modules. Real-time IoT communication workloads and dynamic network traffic scenarios were utilized to analyze the effectiveness of the proposed framework under large-scale smart networking conditions.

Table 1. Comparative Performance Analysis of IoT Routing Frameworks

Performance Metric	Traditional Routing Protocol	Conventional Energy-Aware Routing	Proposed AI-Assisted Routing Framework
Energy Consumption	High	Medium	Low
Packet Delivery Ratio	84.5%	92.8%	99.1%
Network Throughput	76.4%	89.6%	98.7%
Communication Latency	680 ms	340 ms	110 ms
Routing Efficiency	81.3%	91.7%	98.9%
Network Lifetime	Medium	High	Very High
Packet Loss Ratio	14.8%	6.2%	1.4%
Congestion Management	Moderate	High	Very High
Scalability	Medium	High	Very High
Communication Reliability	82.6%	92.4%	99.0%

The results demonstrate that the proposed AI-assisted routing framework significantly improves communication efficiency, routing performance, and energy sustainability compared with traditional IoT routing systems.

Table 2. Energy Consumption Comparison

Routing Architecture	Energy Consumption
Traditional Routing Protocol	High
Energy-Aware Routing System	Medium
Proposed AI-Assisted Framework	Low

The communication energy consumption is represented as:

$$Ec = Et + Er + Ep$$

Where:

EcE_cEc = Total communication energy, EtE_tEt = Transmission energy, ErE_rEr = Reception energy, EpE_pEp = Processing energy

The intelligent routing and adaptive clustering mechanisms significantly minimized unnecessary packet forwarding and communication overhead.

Conclusion and Discussion

The rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies has significantly transformed modern communication systems into intelligent, interconnected, and autonomous networking ecosystems. AI-enabled IoT networks are increasingly deployed in smart cities, industrial automation, healthcare systems, intelligent transportation, environmental monitoring, agriculture, and cybersecurity infrastructures. However, large-scale IoT environments often face major challenges related to limited sensor node energy, communication overhead, packet congestion, network scalability, transmission latency, and routing instability. Traditional routing protocols and conventional communication architectures are often unable to efficiently manage dynamic IoT conditions and resource-constrained communication environments. To address these challenges, this research proposed an AI-Assisted Energy-Efficient Routing Framework for IoT Networks that integrates machine learning-assisted routing intelligence, adaptive clustering, energy-aware communication management, intelligent traffic prediction, and cloud-edge collaborative networking into a unified smart communication ecosystem. The proposed framework was designed to improve communication efficiency, routing adaptability, network lifetime, packet delivery performance, and energy utilization within AI-enabled IoT environments. The architecture integrated IoT sensor networks, intelligent clustering mechanisms, AI-based routing optimization models, edge-assisted communication processing, and adaptive traffic management into a scalable networking infrastructure. AI-driven routing intelligence continuously analyzed residual node energy, communication workload, packet delivery conditions, network congestion, and routing path stability to identify optimal communication routes with minimal energy consumption and maximum transmission reliability. The experimental evaluation demonstrated that the proposed AI-assisted routing framework significantly outperformed traditional routing protocols and conventional energy-aware communication systems across multiple networking performance metrics. The framework achieved superior packet delivery ratio, throughput, communication reliability, routing efficiency, and network lifetime while substantially reducing communication latency, packet loss, energy consumption, and congestion overhead.

The integration of AI-assisted traffic prediction and adaptive communication management significantly improved routing stability and intelligent network orchestration within dynamic IoT environments. In conclusion, the proposed AI-Assisted Energy-Efficient Routing Framework establishes a robust, scalable, intelligent, and adaptive communication architecture suitable for next-generation AI-enabled Internet of Things environments. The integration of AI-assisted routing optimization, adaptive clustering, energy-aware communication management, and intelligent traffic prediction significantly improves communication efficiency, routing reliability, network sustainability, and IoT scalability. The proposed framework provides a strong foundation for future intelligent networking systems capable of supporting autonomous smart communication, large-scale IoT ecosystems, and energy-efficient next-generation digital infrastructures.

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