

Smart AI Garbage Detector: Modern Approach to Smart Waste Monitoring

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Peer Review Information	Abstract
Type: Article Received: 12 April 2026 Revised: 03 May 2026 Accepted: 10 June 2026 Published: 05 July 2026	Due to rapid urbanisation, the amount of municipal solid waste has increased tremendously. With this swift increase in generated solid waste, the traditional waste management methods involving the use of fixed schedules and manual monitoring have become inefficient, leading to overflowing bins that cause pollution and increased costs. Thus, advancement in technology has known no bounds. With advancements such as AI, IoT, Computer Vision, and their combination with Cloud Computing has led to an effective way of monitoring and managing waste and garbage using Smart AI Garbage Detectors. These smart garbage detectors use different components like sensors, cameras, and machine learning to create a smart algorithm that can also help in the monitoring and management of waste. The benefit of using such systems is that they can constantly monitor the amount of waste generated all day long and then combine it with AI to form an intelligent automated decision-making process that helps in devising an efficient waste management schedule. With such systems, the garbage monitoring and maintaining the common areas clean can become effective and less costly. To study the advancements in the field of AI and IoT-based systems used for waste management, the existing literature of thorough research is analyzed. With the analysis, this paper provides a detailed overview of different technologies and approaches that are utilized in these systems to make them more efficient and effective and identifies further challenges and future developments in this field. To sum the findings of this paper up, the need for advancement in the field of waste management systems is very important as they provide improved efficiency in monitoring the generated garbage, reduced costs involved, and sustainable planning of a proper and scheduled waste management ultimately leading to sustainable urban development. Keywords: Smart Waste Management; Garbage Truck Monitoring; Artificial Intelligence (AI); Internet of Things (IoT); Route Optimization; Real-Time Tracking; Municipal Solid Waste; Cyber-Physical Systems; Intelligent Transportation; Waste Collection Analytics

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Introduction

Modern cities face the growing challenge of managing their waste appropriately. The continuous increase in municipal solid waste due to the increase in population growth, industrialization, changing lifestyles, etc. has gained researchers' attention in recent years. Proper waste management is one of the biggest challenges faced by municipalities since the waste management systems are unable to cope up with the ever-increasing municipal solid waste. This is due to the inefficiencies of traditional systems. The smart waste management system provides an effective alternative to these challenges and offers a sustainable solution for solid waste management. Smart waste management integrates advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Computer Vision, Cloud Computing, etc. to transform smart waste management systems into efficient and effective systems. The advanced sensor-based systems integrated with cloud computing and AI can facilitate effective waste monitoring and relieve municipalities from the traditional waste management systems. However, due to the continuous upgradation of technology, there are still some challenges faced by the researchers to develop smart waste management systems. Therefore, the research community is still in its initial stage of implementing smart waste management systems. Some of the innovative ideas for solid waste management include Smart AI Garbage Detectors that can detect the garbage bins filled with waste jars and inform the municipal authorities for timely waste collection.

Furthermore, the integration of AI with other advanced technologies and machine learning concepts will help the platforms facilitate data-driven decision-making. In conclusion, this review paper focuses on the implementation, innovative ideas, merits, and demerits of AI-based waste monitoring systems. With the smart waste monitoring systems, it will help the waste collection authorities track the waste and facilitate efficient waste collection, which in turn will help manage waste in urban areas effectively and positively impact the environment.

Literature Review

The rapid advancement of smart technologies has enabled several facets of human life to achieve unparalleled efficiency. Waste management systems based on IoT and AI smart technologies for both residential and commercial purposes are also becoming more popular in recent decades. While the bustle in metropolitan regions is a key reason for taking smart measures to mitigate waste, even smaller residential areas are seeing a rise in population. This has resulted in a massive problem for municipalities. This leads to the need to develop smart waste management techniques that can eventually lead to more smart cities.

Today, a smart waste management system consists of the typical trash bin equipped with a particular type of sensors. These sensors are designed to detect the waste within the bins and send alerts for effective waste collection. However, the process is still considered sub-optimal compared to the approach adopted by several top Fortune 500 companies and other flagship organisations in other areas. Today's waste management process can be better understood through the blocks mentioned below.

IoT-based Monitoring

A top smart technology to keep track of the waste is by construction smart devices with sensors that can enhance the productivity of not only the people, but also the smart waste management systems, ultimately leading to maximum operational efficiency. The IoT-based monitoring has brought in a lot of efficiency in data-driven waste collection.

AI Algorithms

The introduction of AI algorithms in every industry has generated operational excellence. Several AI algorithms are trained to develop machine learning skills which qualifies them for proper waste classification which allows us to segregate the waste at source and send it to the proper trash bin.

AI-driven Garbage Truck Monitoring

As mentioned, pollution is a major cause of concern even when not directly linked to waste management. Another major reason for air pollution can be the level of vehicular population in metropolitan areas which leads to traffic congestions at different times of the day. In order to address both these problems, AI and IoT have come together to enhance the waste management system. The garbage truck monitoring system uses ultrasonic sensors to estimate the level of waste within a bin and notifies the concerned people for effective waste collection.

Computer Vision

Computer Vision actively uses deep learning models such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) to segregate plastics, metals, and organic wastes. The waste collected is segregated at the source which allows ease of recycling for better reusability of their components.

Cloud Computing platforms

These platforms are used for storing the real-time waste data obtained from the various smart waste management systems making it deployable for further use as well...

Technologies Used in Smart AI Garbage Detectors

modern waste management systems are improved through the integration of various technologies such as AI and machine learning, IoT, computer vision, cloud computer, and wireless communication. AI algorithms can be leveraged to analyze the data collected, and machine learning algorithms can be used to predict garbage. The IoT will act as a connectivity medium for the smart bin, ensuring that sensor's data is stored, processed, and analyzed. Also, the sensors will monitor the fill levels of the smart bins.

Computer vision will help identify the waste disposed of in the bin so that it can be segregated. The data collected on these sensors will be stored in the cloud, and analytics performed at the cloud level. It also helps in limiting the server storage and processing capability as the data can be huge. Technologies such as Wi-Fi, GSM, LoRaWAN, and other wireless technologies will be leveraged to ensure real-time communication.

Technology is part of our lives. We have been making a transition toward smart technology and efficiency in our daily tasks. We have shifted from manual attendance to biometric attendance. Theres why we use low admin systems such as an accounting app that does not require a human to be maintained. The same is the case with garbage collection. Smart Bins with the low admin needed for garbage collection will be introduced. Instead of maintaining the bin for filling with garbage and cleaning, we will have smart bins, which will be equipped with sensors, IoT, and other technology that requires low human involvement.

This article focuses on how we can improve the current analogue system with smart bins which can be equipped with various technologies to reduce human involvement, thus making the garbage collection system more efficient, improving health safety, and ensuring that the environment is pollution free.

The sensors will monitor the fill levels of the smart bins. The data collected on these sensors will be stored in the cloud, and analytics performed at the cloud level. It also helps in limiting the server storage and processing capability as the data can be huge. Without the storing and accessing of data, it will be difficult to make safe and secure decisions.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms can be leveraged to analyse the data collected. Based on the data collected during a certain time period, the weights of the garbage will also be analysed. This can also be done with the help of machine learning algorithms which will predict the garbage based on the previous analysis.

The IoT acts as a connectivity medium for the smart bin. The data which is generated by the sensor has to be stored and then the data will be sent for processing and then analysed. IoT ensures that this data is sent and not lost as well.

Comparative analysis of Existing Systems

Author	Technology	Major Contribution	Limitation
Esmacilian et al.	IoT	Sustainable waste framework	Limited AI integration
Fang et al.	AI	Route optimization	Requires extensive datasets
Olawade et al.	AI & ML	Intelligent waste management	High computational complexity
Sikarwar et al.	AI & IoT	Smart truck monitoring	Deployment cost
IoT-based Systems	Sensors & Cloud	Real-time monitoring	Sensor accuracy issues
Computer Vision Systems	CNN & Cameras	Waste classification	Higher processing requirements

The comparison shows that hybrid AI-IoT systems generally provide better performance than standalone solutions.

Combining multiple technologies increases system reliability and operational efficiency.

Challenges and Limitations

Although Smart AI Garbage Detectors provide numerous benefits, several challenges remain.

The initial deployment cost of sensors, cameras, communication modules, and cloud infrastructure can be substantial. Many municipalities face budget constraints that limit large-scale implementation.

Sensor performance may be affected by environmental conditions such as dust, moisture, and extreme temperatures. Similarly, camera-based systems may experience reduced accuracy under poor lighting conditions.

Future Scope

The Smart AI Garbage Detectors provide numerous benefits; they do face challenges. Such systems are initially expensive to deploy according to non-profits. Budget constraints, which municipalities face are a major barrier hinder wide-spread adoption of the technology.

Environmental conditions can affect sensor performance and some of the cameras in smart garbage collection can be inaccurate, which is heightened when there is poor lighting. The detectors may also be vulnerable to cyber security attacks, exposing the municipality to hacking and loss of private information. Such technology needs continuous maintenance and technical expertise to run smoothly. While there are a number of challenges that arise with the deployment of smart garbage collection to smart garbage collection, the benefits they provide outweigh the costs

Conclusion

Smart AI Garbage Detectors have emerged as an effective solution for addressing modern waste management challenges. The integration of Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Computer Vision, and Cloud Computing enables real-time monitoring, intelligent decision-making, and optimized waste collection operations.

The literature reviewed in this paper demonstrates that AI-driven waste management systems can significantly reduce overflow incidents, decrease operational costs, improve collection efficiency, and enhance citizen satisfaction.

Despite challenges related to cost, maintenance, and security, continued technological advancements are expected to accelerate the adoption of smart waste management solutions in future smart cities.

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