



EXPLORING THE POTENTIALS OF GREEN COMPUTING IN OSUN STATE, NIGERIA



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Received: September 5, 2025, Accepted: November 28, 2025

Abstract: The environmental impact of computing is becoming increasingly significant as Nigeria's digital landscape continues to grow. One effective way to lessen the ecological footprint of information and communication technology (ICT) is through green computing, which focuses on environmentally friendly practices. This paper delves into the opportunities and challenges of implementing green computing in Osun State, Nigeria, with a strong emphasis on energy efficiency, managing electronic waste, integrating renewable energy, and fostering awareness. It advocates for community engagement, skill development, and strategic policies to harness the benefits of green computing for the sustainable development of Osun State.

Keywords: Green Computing, Sustainability, E-waste, Renewable Energy, ICT, Environmental Impact

Introduction

ICT's quick development in Nigeria has changed socio-economic activity, but it has also brought about environmental problems like high energy consumption, carbon emissions, and electronic garbage, or e-waste. The design, development, and use of computer systems in a way that minimizes their environmental impacts is referred to as sustainable computing, or green computing (Akoh *et al.*, 2024; Li *et al.* 2022). This entails cutting back on carbon emissions, energy use, and technology waste. By using renewable energy sources, energy-efficient technology, green data centers, and appropriate e-waste disposal, green computing also seeks to reduce the environmental impact of ICT (Wang *et al.*, 2021; Olajide *et al.*, 2017).

Osun State, with its growing digital infrastructure and rising ICT use, offers both opportunities and challenges for green computing. The potentials of green computing in Osun State, Nigeria, is examined in this paper, with a focus on how it might promote sustainable development, lessen environmental risks, and increase digital inclusion.

Concepts of Green Computing

In order to reduce the influence on the environment, green computing entails the efficient and responsible design, manufacture, use, and disposal of computers and related subsystems. Important elements consist of:

- Energy-efficient hardware and systems: Green computing, which aims to lower electricity usage and environmental effect, is centered on energy-efficient hardware and systems. This entails creating and utilizing devices like energy-efficient monitors, low-power processors, and servers that are tailored to use less power when in use. Efficiency is enhanced by methods such as solid-state drives (SSDs), which use less energy than conventional hard drives, and dynamic voltage and frequency scaling (DVFS), which modifies hardware performance according to workload. Virtualization and power management feature implementation also aid in network and data center resource optimization. All things considered, energy-efficient

systems and hardware assist businesses in lowering operating expenses, minimizing carbon emissions, and advancing sustainable ICT practices. (Wang *et al.*, 2021).

- Cloud computing and virtualization: Cloud computing and virtualization are essential elements of green computing that contribute to resource conservation. Virtualization maximizes system efficiency and reduces the need for additional physical devices by enabling several virtual computers to operate on a single physical server. As a result, less energy is used and less hardware is purchased. In a similar vein, cloud computing removes the necessity for maintaining substantial on-site infrastructure by allowing businesses to use computer resources whenever they need them via the internet. Cloud services reduce waste and energy consumption by optimizing resource allocation, sharing, and scalability. Cloud computing and virtualization work together to support environmentally friendly practices, reduce operating costs, and encourage the effective use of computing resources (Buyya *et al.*, 2010).

- Recycling and e-waste management: These are essential components of green computing, which aim to lessen the damage that discarded electronic devices make to the environment. Lead and mercury are examples of dangerous materials that can contaminate soil and water if they are disposed of and recycled properly. E-waste management is the responsible collection, refurbishment, and recycling of electronic devices, frequently carried out by accredited facilities. Recycling old electronics' metals and polymers helps preserve natural resources and lessens the need for new raw materials. Good e-waste management techniques reduce pollution in the environment, encourage sustainability, and guarantee that electronic trash produced by digital technology use is handled responsibly (Jain *et al.*, 2020).

- Utilizing renewable energy sources: This aspect of green computing is concerned with using eco-friendly energy sources, such solar, wind, or hydro power, to power computer infrastructure. Renewable energy lowers greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of data centers and IT operations by taking the place of conventional

fossil fuels. Using renewable energy encourages sustainability, eventually reduces operating expenses, and enables businesses to fight climate change while preserving effective computing services. (Zhao *et al.*, 2022).

- Increasing user awareness and responsible behavior: This entails teaching people about sustainable behaviors like energy conservation, appropriate e-waste disposal, and effective technology use (Adeosun *et al.*, 2016). Users can reduce electronic waste, increase device lifespan, and lower energy consumption by cultivating environmentally conscientious practices. Increasing awareness promotes responsible conduct, which supports broader environmental conservation initiatives and creates a more sustainable digital world. (Li *et al.*, 2022).

Importance of Green Computing in Osun State

1. Growing ICT Adoption: Osun State's ICT infrastructure, which includes digitalization of the private sector, educational technology, and government e-services, is expanding. Sustainable procedures are required as a result of this expansion's increased energy usage and e-waste output.
2. Environmental Issues: Nigeria has issues with the disposal of e-waste, including health risks brought on by incorrect handling of discarded electronics. Climate change initiatives are impacted by the energy consumption of ICT infrastructure, which adds to carbon emissions (Akoh *et al.*, 2024).
3. Economic Opportunities: Green computing may lower operating costs for businesses and the government, encourage local recycling industries, and create jobs.

Potential Areas for Development in Osun State

Through a number of programs and projects, Osun State has demonstrated significant promise in the field of green computing. Osun State can further explore the possibilities of green computing and help create a more sustainable future by utilizing these projects and possible areas for growth.

1. Energy Efficiency and Cost Reduction: Virtualization, renewable energy for data centers, and the use of energy-efficient technology can all greatly lower electricity costs and their negative effects on the environment.
2. E-waste Management and Recycling: By establishing appropriate facilities for disposal and recycling, a circular economy may be promoted while reducing health risks and recovering valuable materials.
3. Integration of Renewable Energy: Especially in off-grid locations, using solar and other renewable energy sources to power ICT infrastructure can guarantee a consistent, sustainable power supply.
4. Capacity Building and Awareness: Educating users, students, and ICT professionals on green practices can encourage eco-friendly behaviors, prolong equipment lifespans, and promote responsible usage.
5. Policy and Institutional Frameworks: Creating regulations that follow international guidelines, such as WEEE directives, can help promote green procurement and responsible e-waste handling.

Implementing Green Computing for Sustainable Development

Nigeria may reduce its environmental impact and promote sustainable development by implementing green computing. The following are some possible tactics:

1. Environmental Sustainability
 - a. Reduced carbon footprint: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and energy use.
 - b. E-waste management: Recycling and appropriately disposing of electronic waste.
 - c. Resource conservation: reducing the need for raw materials and encouraging resource use that is sustainable.
2. Sustainability of the Economy
 - a. Cost savings: Lower energy cost can result from energy-efficient systems.
 - b. Enhanced efficiency: Green computing can improve system dependability and performance.
 - c. Job creation: Green computing projects have the potential to generate new employment possibilities
3. Social Sustainability
 - a. Improved public health: Public health can be enhanced by lowering the environmental impact of computing.
 - b. Greater accessibility to technology: Green computing has the potential to lower the cost and increase the accessibility of technology.
 - c. Digital inclusion: Green computing has the potential to lessen the digital divide and encourage digital inclusion.
 - d. Green computing education: Spread awareness of the value of green computing among professionals, students, and the general public.
 - e. Policy and regulation: Create and implement rules and guidelines that encourage the use of green computing.

Methodologies of Implementing Green Computing

A range of approaches aimed at reducing the environmental impact of computer resources are collectively referred to as green computing. These approaches, which are frequently combined, assist businesses in reducing their carbon footprint and advancing environmentally friendly computing techniques. Among the approaches are:

1. Design of Energy-Efficient Hardware
 - a. Developing low-power processors, servers, and peripherals
 - b. Utilizing energy-efficient components and materials
 - c. Implementing power management features like dynamic voltage and frequency scaling (DVFS)
2. Virtualization and Cloud Computing
 - a. Consolidating multiple servers onto fewer physical machines to optimize resource utilization
 - b. Using cloud services to reduce the need for physical infrastructure and improve energy efficiency
3. Optimizing Data Center
 - a. Implementing advanced cooling techniques and airflow management
 - b. Using energy-efficient data center designs and infrastructure (e.g., modular data centers)
 - c. Monitoring and managing power consumption with intelligent systems

4. Power Management Software
 - a. Employing operating systems and applications that optimize power use
 - b. Implementing sleep modes, hibernation, and automatic shutdown features
5. Green Software Development
 - a. Writing energy-efficient algorithms and code
 - b. Minimizing computational complexity to reduce processing power and energy consumption
6. Recycling and E-Waste Management
 - a. Proper disposal and recycling of electronic waste
 - b. Designing hardware for easier recycling and longer lifespan
7. Renewable Energy Sources
 - a. Powering data centers and offices with solar, wind, or other renewable energy sources
8. Design for Sustainability
 - a. Incorporating environmental considerations into the design and lifecycle of IT products
 - b. Promoting the use of sustainable materials and eco-friendly manufacturing processes
9. User Awareness and Policies
 - a. Educating users about energy-saving practices
 - b. Implementing organizational policies for responsible computing and resource use

Potential Applications

Some recent and notable applications of Green Computing include the following:

1. Data Center Energy Efficiency: To lower power consumption in data centers, energy-efficient servers, cooling systems, and virtualization technologies are being adopted.
2. Cloud Computing Optimization: Reducing the environmental effect of cloud services by using green practices like resource optimization and data centers powered by renewable energy.
3. Smart Grids and Renewable Energy Integration: Improving energy distribution, optimizing renewable sources, and lowering carbon footprints through the use of computing technology.
4. Green networking: reducing power consumption in communication networks by creating energy-efficient networking hardware and protocols.
5. Eco-friendly Hardware Design: Designing hardware that consumes less energy and is easier to recycle, including low-power processors and environmentally friendly materials.
6. Green Software Development: Creating energy-efficient algorithms and software practices that reduce computational energy consumption.
7. E-Waste Management: Using computing solutions for better tracking, recycling, and disposal of electronic waste.
8. Smart Building Automation: Employing sensors and IoT devices to optimize energy use in buildings, conserving resources and reducing costs.

Case Studies and Recent Examples

Here are detailed examples and case studies on applications of Green Computing:

1. Data Center Energy Efficiency: Google has implemented advanced cooling techniques, such as using seawater for

cooling in their Finland data center, significantly reducing energy consumption. They also use AI-driven algorithms to optimize server loads and cooling systems, achieving a 40% reduction in energy used for cooling (Khan *et al.*, 2020).

2. Cloud Computing Optimization: Microsoft's Cloud Data Centers: Microsoft has committed to powering its Azure cloud with 100% renewable energy by 2025. They optimize resource allocation and use machine learning to manage energy loads efficiently, reducing carbon emissions (Li *et al.*, 2022).

3. Smart Grids and Renewable Energy Integration: Siemens has developed smart grid systems that use real-time data and AI to balance energy loads, incorporate renewable sources, and reduce transmission losses. For instance, their solutions have reduced energy wastage in European power grids by 15-20%.

4. Green Networking: Cisco Energy-Efficient Networking Equipment: Cisco has introduced energy-efficient switches and routers that reduce power consumption during low utilization periods through adaptive power management features (Alzain *et al.*, 2019).

5. Eco-friendly Hardware Design: ARM's Low-Power Processors: ARM designs processors for mobile devices and embedded systems with ultra-low power consumption, reducing energy use in IoT applications and mobile computing.

6. Green Software Development: Energy-aware Algorithms in Data Analytics: Researchers develop algorithms that optimize data processing tasks to minimize energy usage, especially in big data environments (Nnamdi, 2024).

7. E-Waste Management: Dell's Recycling Program: Dell's e-waste recycling initiative ensures that retired electronics are properly recycled, reducing landfill waste and recovering valuable materials.

8. Smart Building Automation: Johnson Controls' IoT-enabled Building Management Systems: These systems optimize heating, cooling, and lighting based on occupancy and environmental data, leading to energy savings of up to 30%.

Challenges to Green Computing Implementation in Osun State

Green Computing in Osun State faces several challenges that can be categorized as listed below:

1. Limited knowledge and awareness among stakeholders: It's possible that many stakeholders, such as staff members, managers, and legislators, are unaware of the advantages of green technology and sustainable practices. This may make it more difficult for responsible conduct and environmentally beneficial solutions to be adopted. Raising awareness via instruction and training is necessary to guarantee that stakeholders actively support and successfully carry out green projects (Hassan *et al.*, 2021)
2. Inadequate infrastructure for renewable energy and e-waste recycling: Green computing is severely hampered by inadequate infrastructure for recycling e-waste and renewable energy. While a lack of e-waste recycling facilities results in inappropriate disposal of electronic gadgets, a lack of infrastructure for renewable energy

generation lessens need on fossil fuels. This undermines sustainability initiatives, draws attention to the necessity of funding green infrastructure, and underscores the significance of creating frameworks that promote environmental preservation (Mao *et al.*, 2023).

3. Inadequate policy enforcement: This prevents environmental norms and laws from being properly applied or ignored, which impedes the advancement of green computing. This reduces responsibility and delays the adoption of sustainable practices, highlighting the necessity of more robust oversight, monitoring, and enforcement systems to guarantee that environmental objectives are successfully fulfilled.
4. High initial costs of green hardware and renewable energy systems: The high initial costs of renewable energy systems and green technology can be a big deterrent to adoption because they demand a large financial outlay. Despite the long-term economic and environmental advantages, this may discourage businesses and individuals from switching to sustainable technologies. To overcome this obstacle, financial assistance and incentives are frequently required.
5. Lack of local expertise in green ICT solutions: Insufficient local knowledge of green ICT solutions can make it more difficult to deploy and maintain sustainable technologies. Reliance on outside resources, higher expenses, and a delayed adoption of green practices could result from this skills gap. Sustainable growth in this area requires increasing local capacity via education and training.

Policies and Regulations Standards for Green Computing in Osun State, Nigeria

It's possible that Osun State, Nigeria, lacks comprehensive green computing rules and regulations under specific legislative frameworks. Osun State and Nigeria, however, are in line with more general national and worldwide norms and programs meant to encourage ecologically friendly computing and information technology (IT) practices. The following standards and pertinent policy frameworks may have an impact on Osun State's green computing initiatives:

1. Nigerian National Policy on the Environment
 - Provides overarching guidance on environmental sustainability, waste management, and pollution control.
 - Encourages sustainable practices in industries, including information technology.
2. Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR)
 - Focuses on data privacy but also emphasizes responsible use of technology resources, which can support energy-efficient practices.
3. National Energy Policies
 - Promote the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, relevant for powering data centers and IT infrastructure sustainably.
4. International Standards and Best Practices Adopted Locally

- ISO 14001 (Environmental Management Systems): Encourages organizations to develop environmentally responsible practices, including in IT.

- ISO 50001 (Energy Management): Promotes energy efficiency, applicable to data centers and IT operations.

- E-waste Management Guidelines: Nigeria's e-waste policies aim to regulate disposal and recycling of electronic devices.

5. State-Level Initiatives

- Osun State government has shown commitments to environmental sustainability through policies on renewable energy, waste management, and environmental conservation.

- Specific programs or policies promoting green IT may be developed at the state level to align with national and international standards.

6. Regulatory Bodies and Initiatives

- National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA): Oversees environmental policies, including e-waste management.

- Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC): Promotes sustainable development in ICT infrastructure.

Recommendations for Osun State Government

1. Policy Development: Formulate and enforce green ICT policies at state and national levels.

2. Capacity Building: Organize training programs for ICT professionals, technicians, and users.

3. Investment in Infrastructure: Promote investments in renewable energy projects and e-waste recycling facilities.

4. Public Awareness Campaigns: Educate the community on responsible e-waste disposal and energy conservation.

5. Partnerships: Collaborate with international organizations, NGOs, and private sector stakeholders to adopt best practices.

Conclusion

By exploring the potential of green computing, we can unlock new paths for sustainable growth and create a technology industry that's more aware of its social and environmental impact. In Osun State, embracing green computing can lead to sustainable ICT development, minimize environmental risks, and foster socioeconomic advancement. While there are challenges to overcome, we can fully harness the benefits of green computing by implementing smart policies, building capacity, and investing in infrastructure. By adopting these strategies, Osun State can align itself with global efforts toward digital transformation and environmental sustainability.

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