Chapter 9
Sustainable Automation Integrating Energy Efficiency and Smart Communication Technologies

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ABSTRACT

As industries embrace automation, sustainability has become a crucial factor in designing energy-efficient and eco-friendly systems. This chapter explores the role of communication technologies, including IoT, 5G, and smart grids, in enabling

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3373-3541-4.ch009

sustainable automation solutions. It delves into energy-efficient automation technologies, covering advanced sensors, robotics, and energy management systems. Additionally, the chapter highlights green engineering practices, innovations in energy storage, and the integration of cloud and edge computing for optimized resource utilization. The economic, environmental, and social benefits of sustainable automation are analysed, along with challenges and opportunities for the next generation of engineers. By adopting sustainable automation practices, industries can minimize their carbon footprint while enhancing efficiency and productivity.

INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE AUTOMATION

Sustainable automation refers to the newest blend of innovation with technology and nature, concentrating on designing systems in various industries that are effective and robust. As climate change, depletion of resources, and economic productivity concerns grow, so does the need to intertwine sustainability with the latest automation technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and Internet of Things.

Definition and Significance of Sustainable Automation

Automation of this kind is sustainable within the context of ecology as it is compliant with social standards of automation. It results in systems and processes that achieve neutral ecological and social impact. These systems should be productive while ensuring a significant reduction in energy consumption, waste generation, and resource depletion. Automation places primary emphasis on output and productivity, while social responsibility and welfare remain peripheral concerns. Unlike the previous approach which emphasizes automation, climate change, and resource scarcity, this approach ties social responsibility to the automated processes. Sustainable automation is the responsible application of technology that advances economic development while also addressing social and environmental concerns. Unlike traditional automation that prioritizes efficiency and cost reduction, sustainable automation focuses on the well-being of ecosystems and societies. It includes smart manufacturing, eco-friendly supply chains, integration of renewable energy, and intelligent transportation systems. These initiatives aim to enhance energy efficiency, reduce emissions, and promote the Circular Economy, where reuse and recycling supplant waste. Industries integrating sustainability with automation can achieve self-sustaining ecosystems where environmental conservation and societal welfare are supported through technological advancement. In this way, sustainable automation profoundly impacts the manufacturing industry by refining industrial processes. Innovations related to Industry 4.0 technologies facilitate smart automation

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