Chapter 12
Green Retrofitting of Warehouses:
Pathways to Sustainable and Energy-Efficient Logistics

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ABSTRACT

This chapter explores cutting-edge advancements in green and energy-efficient warehousing, focusing on transforming traditional logistics infrastructure into sustainable, intelligent ecosystems. It covers core strategies such as retrofitting with LED lighting, smart HVAC systems, renewable energy integration, IoT-based monitoring, and automation for dynamic energy control. Detailed case studies from global leaders like DHL and FedEx illustrate real-world impacts, including substantial reductions in energy consumption and operating costs. The book also analyzes financial feasibility, including ROI, payback periods, and the role of government incentives. Emphasis is placed on policy alignment, employee training, and industry certifications like LEED and ISO 50001. By blending theory with practice, this volume serves as a comprehensive guide for warehouse managers, engineers, policymakers, and sustainability advocates seeking actionable solutions for carbon-neutral logistics operations.

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3373-3176-8.ch012

1. INTRODUCTION

With the world industries moving towards decreasing the carbon footprint and going green, current warehouse facilities are under more pressure to adapt to support the environmental agenda. The highly affordable and scalable green retrofitting solution can be applied by equipping existing warehouse operations with efficient energy systems, renewable energy and intelligent solutions, and is not limited to constructing brand-new warehouses. This strategy not only cuts on environmental impact but it also cuts down on the operating costs thus enhancing the operational efficiency coupled with decreasing the utility expenses as well as treating the regulatory compliance. Based on the figures that indicate that more than 80% of existing warehouses were constructed prior to the onset of making sustainability a priority, retrofitting has become a viable strategic approach towards modernization of antique warehouses (Carli et al., 2020). It converts the warehouses as the passive object of storage to the active component of green supply chain. This part will discuss the extent, significance, and the revolutionary capabilities of retrofitting in propelling a more sustainable logistics and warehousing eco-system.

1.1 Need for Sustainability in Legacy Warehousing

The legacy warehouses, built without references to environmental standards, are highly energy-consuming, low-tech, and inefficient in term of resources. These traditional buildings are a major roadblock to realize the dream of a sustainable practice as global supply chains are under pressure to meet demands of cutting down carbon emissions and conform to environmental policies. Greenhouse gas emissions are significant cause of emission in the warehousing industry due to poor lighting, HVAC systems, and utilization of non-renewable energy (Ries et al., 2017). Moreover, consumer and regulatory demands that Favor environmentally-friendly logistics has caused firms to reconsider their infrastructure. Sustainability has become not only important but it is a must in gaining competitive edge, regulatory Standing and long-term profits. The process of retrofitting old warehouses enables an organization to be in line with the requirements of green operations without the initial hash on the wallet of an organization by having to construct. This strategy is a clever and timely way to decrease environmental impact, to achieve ESG goals, and to futureproof supply chain processes that operate on a limited resource world.

1.2 Definition and Scope of Retrofitting

The concept of retrofitting when used in the context of the warehousing industry means an upgrading of the current warehouse infrastructure by using modern, energy,