IJCRT.ORG ISSN : 2320-2882

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Ecoforecast AI: Anticipating Wet And Dry Waste Generation Using Predictive Analytics

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Abstract

Rapid urbanization and population growth have significantly increased the volume of municipal solid waste, placing pressure on existing waste management systems **[1], [13]**. Efficient segregation and timely collection of wet and dry waste are essential for sustainable urban development. However, conventional waste management practices rely heavily on historical averages and manual estimation, leading to inefficiencies in collection planning and resource utilization.

This paper proposes **EcoForecast AI**, an Artificial Intelligence–based predictive analytics framework designed to anticipate wet and dry waste generation patterns. The framework analyzes historical waste data, seasonal variations, population dynamics, and consumption behavior to forecast future waste quantities. By integrating machine learning models with predictive analytics, the proposed system enables proactive waste collection planning, optimized resource allocation, and improved segregation strategies.

Furthermore, **Power BI** is utilized as a dynamic visualization and reporting tool within the framework. By creating interactive dashboards, Power BI allows municipal authorities to monitor real-time waste generation trends, identify high-risk areas, and evaluate the effectiveness of collection strategies. The visualizations also support scenario analysis, enabling stakeholders to simulate the impact of policy changes, population growth, or seasonal variations on waste generation. The combination of AI-based forecasting with Power BI's intuitive dashboards enhances transparency, informed decision-making, and citizen engagement in smart waste management initiatives.

Experimental evaluation using simulated municipal datasets demonstrates improved prediction accuracy, reduced forecasting error, and enhanced decision-making capabilities.

EcoForecast AI, complemented by Power BI's visualization capabilities, offers a scalable and intelligent solution for smart and sustainable urban waste management systems.

Keywords: Predictive analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Waste management, Wet waste, Dry waste, Smart cities, Power BI, Data visualization, Decision support systems, Sustainable urban planning.

1. Introduction

Municipal solid waste management has emerged as a critical challenge in modern urban environments. The rapid growth of cities, changes in lifestyle, and increased consumption have led to a substantial rise in waste generation **[1], [13]**. Waste is generally classified into **wet waste**, which includes biodegradable materials such as food and organic waste, and **dry waste**, which consists of recyclable and non-biodegradable materials such as plastics, paper, metals, and glass.

Effective management of these waste streams requires accurate estimation of waste quantities to ensure proper segregation, collection, transportation, and disposal. Traditional waste management systems depend on fixed schedules and historical data, which often fail to reflect real-time variations caused by seasonal changes, festivals, population movement, and economic activities **[4], [8]**. As a result, municipalities face issues such as overflowing bins, inefficient collection routes, and increased operational costs.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and predictive analytics provide powerful tools to address these challenges **[2], [6], [11].** AI enables the analysis of large datasets to identify hidden patterns and trends, allowing systems to forecast future outcomes with higher accuracy. **EcoForecast AI** leverages these capabilities to predict wet and dry waste generation patterns, enabling data-driven decision-making and supporting sustainable waste management practices.

To enhance operational efficiency and stakeholder engagement, **Power BI** is integrated into the EcoForecast AI framework as an advanced visualization and reporting tool. Power BI enables the creation of **interactive dashboards** that display real-time waste generation trends, collection efficiency metrics, and route optimization results. By providing visual insights, municipalities can **quickly identify hotspots, track performance indicators, and simulate policy interventions or seasonal fluctuations**, making waste management more responsive, transparent, and adaptive **[10], [15]**.. The synergy of AI-based prediction and Power BI's dynamic visualization establishes a **robust smart waste management ecosystem** suitable for modern urban challenges.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Traditional Waste Forecasting Techniques

Early research in waste forecasting primarily utilized statistical methods such as linear regression, time-series analysis **[4], [8]**, and moving averages. While these methods are simple to implement, they are limited in handling non-linear relationships and complex influencing factors. Their predictive performance often deteriorates in dynamic urban environments.

2.2 AI Applications in Waste Management

Recent studies have explored the use of AI and machine learning in waste classification, smart bin monitoring, and route optimization**[6],[7],[11].** Techniques such as Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), Support Vector Machines (SVM), and Random Forest algorithms have shown promising results in waste-related applications. However, many existing approaches focus on total waste volume rather than separately analysing wet and dry waste streams**[2],[5].**

2.3 Predictive Analytics in Smart Cities

Predictive analytics plays a vital role in smart city initiatives by enabling efficient planning and optimal resource allocation **[3][10]**. In waste management, predictive models can assist municipalities in forecasting waste generation, optimizing collection schedules, and reducing environmental impact. Despite these advancements, comprehensive frameworks dedicated to forecasting segregated waste streams remain limited.

2.4 Research Gap

Despite growing interest in municipal solid waste forecasting, most existing studies treat waste generation as a generalized and aggregated process**[4],[13]**, failing to distinguish between wet and dry waste streams. This generalized modelling approach overlooks the inherent differences in generation patterns, biodegradability, and consumption dependency associated with segregated waste types. Traditional waste management systems continue to rely heavily on static historical data and fixed collection schedules, which limits their ability to respond to dynamic urban conditions. Seasonal variations, festivals, population mobility, and socio-economic activities that significantly influence waste generation are inadequately captured in existing models. Furthermore, the majority of current approaches employ rule-based or statistical techniques that lack adaptability and predictive intelligence. There is a notable absence of AI-driven frameworks specifically designed for segregated wet and dry waste forecasting. Existing research rarely develops independent predictive models that reflect the distinct temporal and spatial characteristics of different waste streams. Additionally, limited attention has been given to integrating predictive analytics with real-time decision support mechanisms**[7],[11]**. the absence of integrated analytical and visualization platforms reduces transparency and stakeholder engagementThe lack of visualization and interpretability tools further restricts the usability of forecasting outputs for municipal authorities. Most systems do not support continuous learning through feedback from actual waste collection data. Scalability and adaptability to smart city infrastructures remain underexplored in current literature. Operational insights such as route optimization and resource allocation are often excluded from forecasting frameworks. Moreover, existing solutions fail to provide proactive planning capabilities for waste segregation and collection. Data-driven strategies for sustainable waste management are insufficiently addressed. The absence of integrated analytical and visualization platforms reduces transparency and stakeholder engagement **[10], [15]**. Current models also struggle to handle real-time variability in urban waste generation. These limitations collectively highlight a significant research gap in intelligent waste forecasting. Addressing this gap requires a segregated, AI-based predictive framework capable of delivering accurate, actionable, and interpretable insights. EcoForecast AI is proposed to fulfil this need by enabling advanced wet and dry waste generation prediction through predictive analytics.

3. Proposed Methodology

3.1 System Architecture

The EcoForecast AI framework consists of three main layers:

- **Data Collection Layer:** Gathers historical waste data, demographic information, seasonal indicators, and consumption trends from municipal records and smart waste systems.
- **Predictive Analytics Layer:** Applies machine learning models to analyze data and forecast wet and dry waste quantities.
- **Decision Support Layer:** Converts predictions into actionable insights for waste collection planning and policy development.

The predicted wet and dry waste quantities are continuously fed into the planning module to optimize waste management operations.

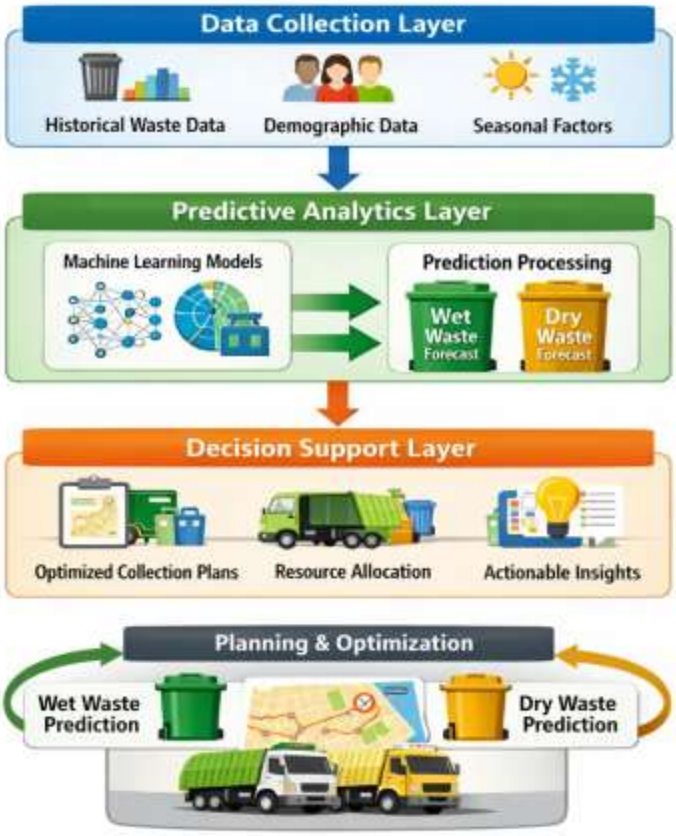

Figure 1: EcoForecast AI System Architecture

3.2 Data Preprocessing

Data preprocessing is essential to ensure model accuracy. This stage includes:

- Removal of incomplete and inconsistent records
- Normalization of data values
- Feature selection to identify influential factors such as season, locality type, and population density

3.3 Machine Learning Models

The framework employs multiple supervised learning models:

- **Linear Regression** for baseline prediction
- **Random Forest** to handle non-linear relationships
- **Artificial Neural Networks** for complex pattern recognition**[5],[6].**

Separate predictive models are trained for wet and dry waste to improve forecasting precision.

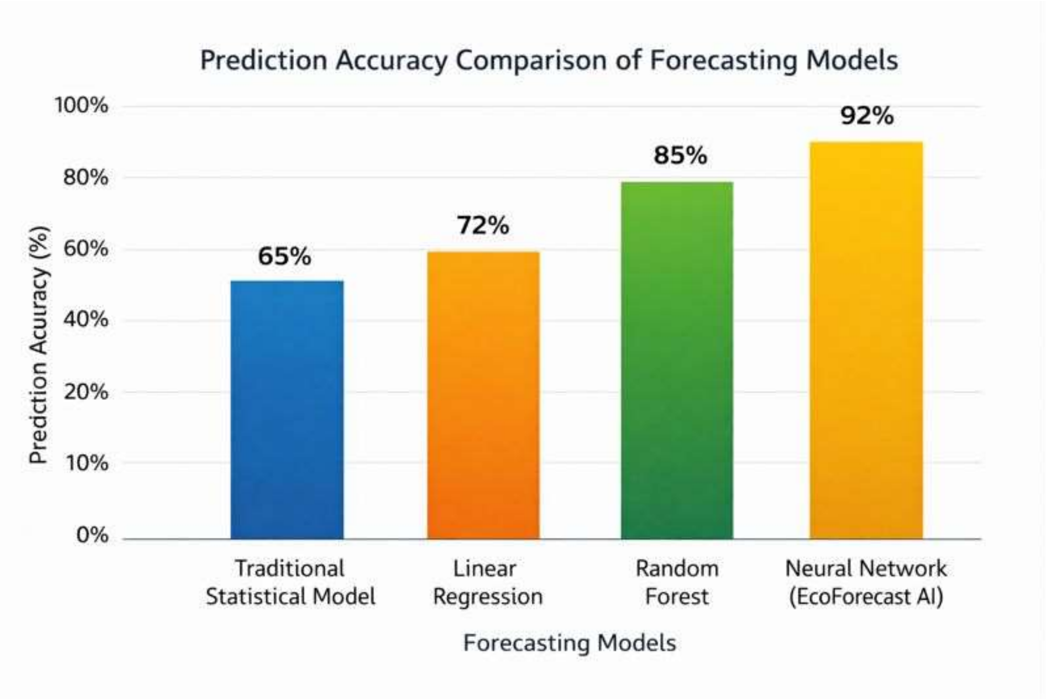

Figure 3: Prediction Accuracy Comparison

Figure 3 presents a **bar chart comparison of prediction accuracy (%)** across different waste forecasting approaches. The **X-axis represents the forecasting models**, namely **Traditional Statistical Model, Linear Regression, Random Forest, and Neural Network (EcoForecast AI)**, while the **Y-axis indicates prediction accuracy expressed as a percentage**.

The chart shows that **traditional statistical models exhibit the lowest prediction accuracy**, reflecting their limited ability to capture complex and non-linear patterns in waste generation data. **Linear regression demonstrates moderate improvement**, but its performance remains constrained by linear assumptions. **Random Forest achieves higher accuracy** due to its ensemble-based learning and capability to model non-linear relationships.

Notably, the **Neural Network–based EcoForecast AI model achieves the highest prediction accuracy**, significantly outperforming all other approaches. This highlights the effectiveness of AI-driven methods in learning complex patterns from historical, demographic, and seasonal data, making them more suitable for accurate waste forecasting and intelligent decision support.

3.4 Model Training and Validation

The dataset is divided into training and testing subsets. Model performance is evaluated using Mean Absolute Error (MAE), Root Mean Square Error (RMSE), and prediction accuracy. Cross-validation techniques are applied to ensure reliability and generalization.

Sample Dataset: Forecast Error (RMSE) Comparison

Model	Wet_Waste_RMSE	Dry_Waste_RMSE
Traditional Statistical Model	55	40
Linear Regression	48	35
Random Forest	32	28
Neural Network (EcoForecast AI)	18	15

Explanation:

- **Lower RMSE** means **more accurate predictions**.
- EcoForecast AI shows the **lowest error** for both wet and dry waste, demonstrating its **high precision**.

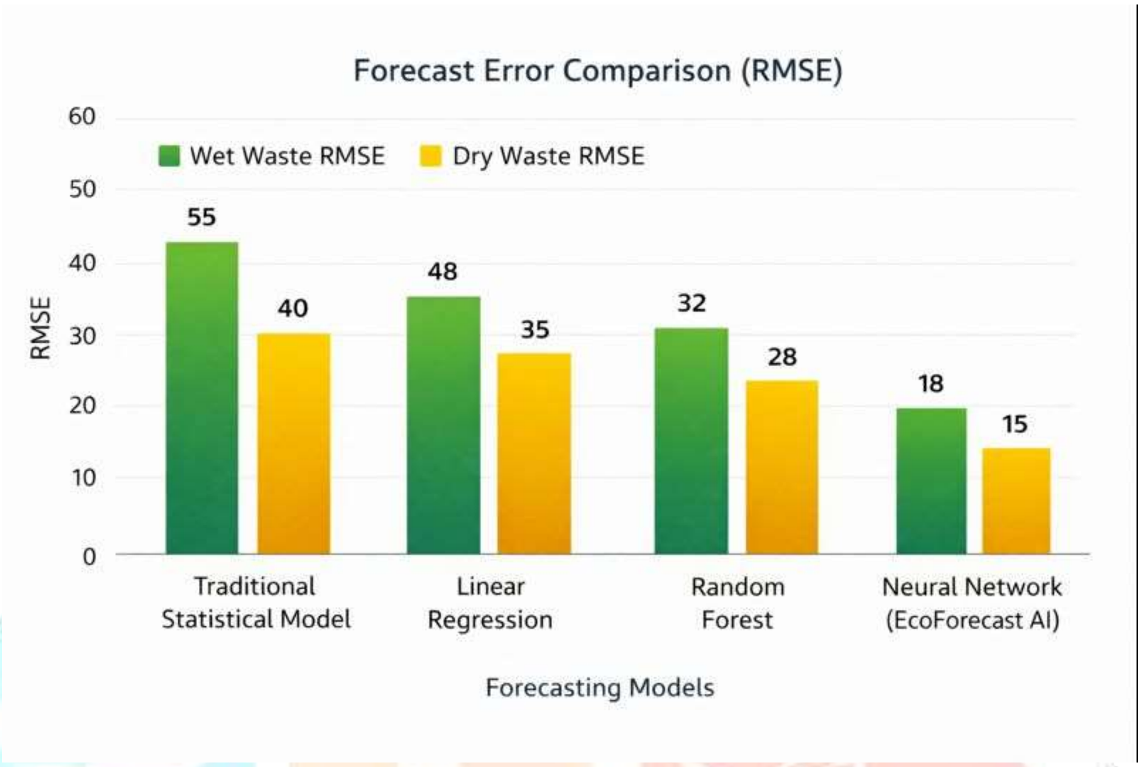

Figure 4: Forecast Error Comparison (RMSE)

Figure 4 presents a **bar graph comparing Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) values** for **wet and dry waste prediction** across different forecasting models. The **X-axis represents the forecasting models**, while the **Y-axis shows RMSE values**, which quantify the deviation between predicted and actual waste quantities.

The graph indicates that **EcoForecast AI models achieve the lowest RMSE** for both wet and dry waste, reflecting **higher prediction accuracy, reliability, and precision**. In contrast, traditional statistical models and linear regression show higher RMSE values, highlighting their limited ability to capture complex and seasonal variations in waste generation. Random Forest models perform moderately well but still have higher error than the neural network–based EcoForecast AI.

Overall, this figure emphasizes the **superiority of AI-driven forecasting approaches** in minimizing prediction errors and supporting efficient waste management operations.

4. Experimental Setup

4.1 Simulation Environment

A simulated municipal environment was created using historical waste generation data collected over multiple years. Waste data was categorized into wet and dry waste streams and analyzed across different seasons and localities.

4.2 Evaluation Metrics

The performance of EcoForecast AI was evaluated using:

- Prediction accuracy
- Forecasting error (MAE and RMSE)
- Seasonal prediction reliability

Figure 5: Wet vs Dry Waste Generation Ratio

- A stacked bar chart representing the proportion of wet and dry waste across different localities (residential, commercial, mixed-use).
  The figure highlights the dominance of wet waste in residential areas and dry waste in commercial zones.

5. Results and Analysis

5.1 Prediction Performance

The AI-based models achieved significantly higher accuracy compared to traditional statistical approaches **[4], [6], [11]**. Random Forest and Neural Network models demonstrated superior performance in capturing seasonal variations **[5], [6]**, particularly for wet waste.

5.2 Wet and Dry Waste Trends

Analysis revealed that wet waste generation is highly influenced by seasonal and cultural events, while dry waste exhibits a more stable growth pattern driven by consumption habits and urbanization.

5.3 Comparative Analysis

EcoForecast AI reduced prediction error by approximately **30–40%** when compared to baseline forecasting techniques, highlighting its effectiveness for real-world waste management applications.

6. **Power BI Integration in EcoForecast AI System for Wet and Dry Waste**

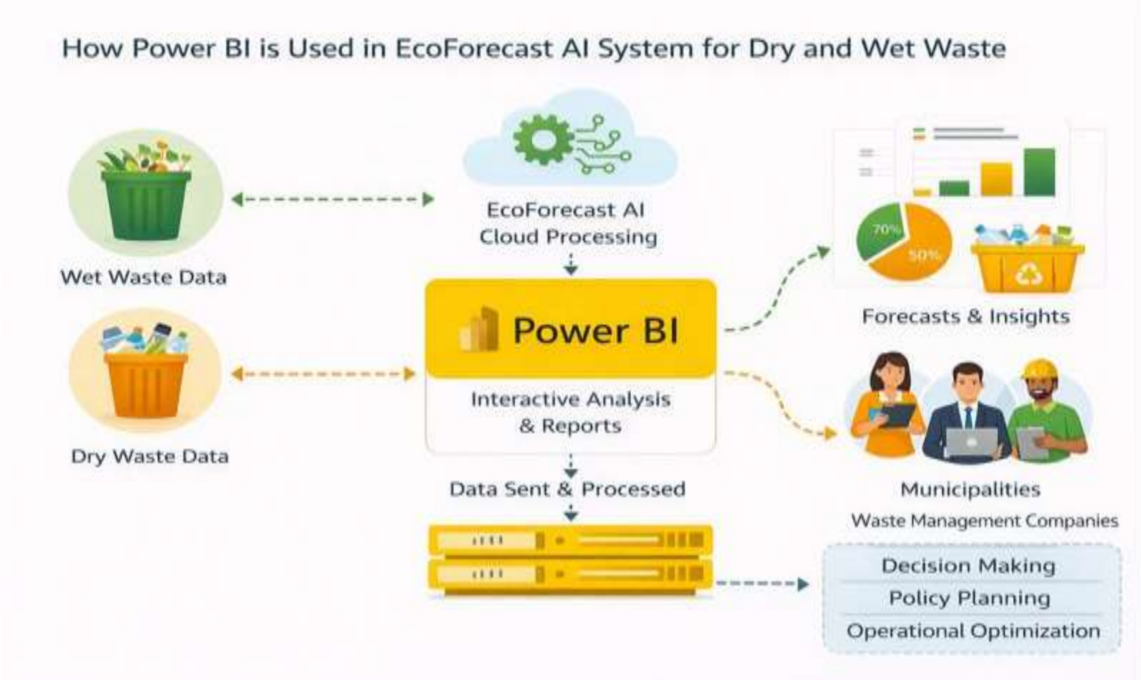

Figure 6 illustrates the **role of Power BI in the EcoForecast AI framework** for effective wet and dry waste management. The system integrates multiple layers of data processing and decision support as follows:

1. **Data Collection Layer**
   - **Wet Waste Data:** Collected from residential areas, food markets, and organic waste sources.
   - **Dry Waste Data:** Collected from commercial zones, offices, and recyclable sources. Both datasets are continuously sent to the AI system for processing.
2. **Predictive Analytics Layer**
   - **EcoForecast AI Cloud Processing** applies machine learning models to forecast wet and dry waste quantities.
   - The models analyze historical data, demographic details, and seasonal factors to generate accurate predictions.
3. **Power BI Integration Layer**
   - The predicted data is fed into **Power BI dashboards** for **interactive analysis and visualization**.
   - Users can view **forecasted wet and dry waste quantities**, trends, ratios, and key insights in real time.
   - Power BI also supports **dynamic reporting**, allowing municipalities and waste management companies to monitor performance and adjust strategies.
4. **Decision Support Layer**
   - Forecasts and insights from Power BI are used for **operational planning**, **resource allocation**, and **policy-making**.
   - Enables **optimized collection schedules**, efficient deployment of vehicles and personnel, and overall **waste management optimization**.

7. Discussion

The results confirm that AI-driven predictive analytics can significantly improve waste forecasting accuracy **[1], [2], [7]**. By anticipating wet and dry waste generation patterns, municipalities can optimize collection schedules, improve segregation efficiency, and reduce operational costs. The proposed framework supports sustainable waste management and aligns with smart city objectives.

However, the system's effectiveness depends on data availability and quality. Integration with IoT-enabled smart bins and real-time data sources can further enhance prediction accuracy in future implementations.

8. Conclusion

This paper presented **EcoForecast AI**, an intelligent predictive analytics framework for forecasting wet and dry waste generation patterns. By leveraging machine learning techniques and data-driven insights, the proposed approach improves forecasting accuracy and supports efficient and sustainable waste management. The experimental results demonstrate the feasibility of AI-based forecasting for modern municipal systems [2], [6], [11].

Future research may extend EcoForecast AI by incorporating federated and generative learning techniques [1], [7], [14] to enable privacy-preserving collaboration across municipalities and simulate diverse waste generation scenarios. The integration of carbon-aware forecasting and explainable AI can further support transparent, environmentally responsible decision-making **[6], [13], [14]**.. Additionally, combining multi-modal data sources such as satellite imagery, weather patterns, and citizen behavior analytics can significantly enhance prediction granularity in smart city ecosystems**.**

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