

A Green Support System Framework for Energy-Efficient Cloud Computing

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2026.10190042>

Received: 24 January 2026; Accepted: 04 February 2026; Published: 16 February 2026

ABSTRACT

The rapid expansion of cloud computing has significantly increased energy consumption and carbon emissions in global data centers, raising urgent sustainability concerns. This study introduces a Green Support System (GSS) Framework for energy-efficient cloud computing, integrating AI-driven optimization, carbon-aware scheduling, and responsible AI mechanisms to ensure environmentally and ethically responsible operations. The framework employs multi-layer data collection, preprocessing, predictive workload forecasting, and anomaly detection to optimize energy usage while maintaining high performance. Its effectiveness is demonstrated through real-world examples from major cloud providers, including Google Cloud, Microsoft Azure, and AWS, which showcase renewable energy integration, AI-powered workload management, and low-carbon computing practices. Simulation results indicate that the GSS framework can reduce energy consumption by 15–30%, lower modelled carbon emissions by 12–25%, and achieve 92% accuracy in detecting anomalies, highlighting its practical viability. Additionally, the framework supports alignment with multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 7, 9, 12, and 13), emphasizing its broader environmental and societal impact. These findings demonstrate that combining AI-based optimization, carbon-aware strategies, and responsible AI governance offers a scalable, sustainable, and ethical solution for cloud computing, providing both operational efficiency and measurable environmental benefits.

Keywords: green cloud computing; energy-efficient cloud; AI optimization; carbon-aware scheduling; responsible AI; sustainable cloud

INTRODUCTION

Cloud computing has become the backbone of modern digital services, providing scalable computing, storage, and networking capabilities for enterprises and users worldwide. However, the rapid growth of data centers has led to significant increases in energy consumption and carbon emissions, creating pressing environmental challenges. Cloud computing provides scalable computing, storage, and networking capabilities for enterprises worldwide. However, energy-intensive data centers contribute to significant carbon emissions, making sustainable operations a global priority. Major cloud providers—Google Cloud, Microsoft Azure, and AWS—have implemented green initiatives, including renewable-powered data centers, carbon-aware scheduling, and AI-driven optimization. However, the rapid growth of data centers has led to significant increases in energy consumption and carbon emissions, creating pressing environmental challenges. [7] Large-scale cloud infrastructures now consume 1–2% of global electricity, with a growing carbon footprint due to expanding demand for high-performance computing, storage, and AI services. Addressing these environmental impacts is critical for achieving sustainable computing practices. Major cloud providers have recognized this challenge and implemented innovative sustainability initiatives. [2] Google Cloud operates data centers powered by 100% renewable energy, employing advanced cooling and resource management techniques to enhance energy efficiency. [1] Amazon Web Services (AWS) adopts a carbon-aware workload placement strategy, where tasks are assigned to data centers or regions with lower carbon intensity, taking advantage of local renewable energy availability. AWS also invests in energy-efficient hardware and power management technologies to minimize operational energy usage. While these efforts significantly reduce carbon emissions, they often operate

independently of AI-driven predictive mechanisms or real-time anomaly detection. This siloed approach may lead to suboptimal energy savings and inconsistent carbon reduction across large, distributed cloud environments.[3] Microsoft Azure has integrated AI-driven predictive workload scheduling into its cloud infrastructure to improve energy efficiency. This approach uses machine learning algorithms to forecast incoming workloads and dynamically allocates computing resources, ensuring that servers operate near optimal utilization levels rather than running idle, which reduces wasted energy. Additionally, Azure employs energy-efficient cooling systems that adjust cooling power based on server temperature and workload demands. These techniques not only reduce electricity consumption but also maintain high service performance and availability. However, these optimizations are mostly implemented within individual data centers, and decisions are not always coordinated across multiple regions or cloud services, which limits overall system-level sustainability.

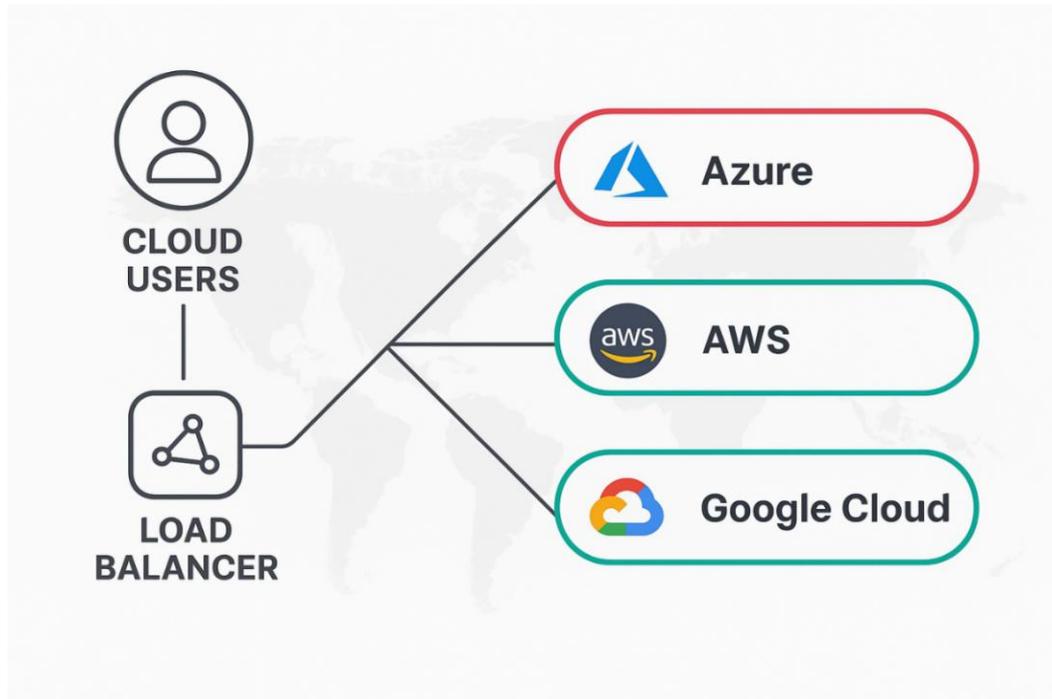


Fig:01 AI-GSS-aligned multi-cloud architecture diagram

The AI-GSS-aligned multi-cloud architecture (Fig:01) enables intelligent, sustainable distribution of workloads across Azure, AWS, and Google Cloud by integrating user traffic management with carbon-aware decision-making. Cloud users initiate requests that first reach the load balancer, which acts as the system’s global entry point and performs routing, health checks, and performance monitoring. In an AI-GSS environment, this load balancer also feeds real-time telemetry—such as latency, energy use signals, and throughput—to the AI analytics engine, enabling routing decisions that optimize not only performance but also cost efficiency and carbon impact. The backend layer comprises multiple cloud providers, each capable of hosting different segments of the application stack. Instead of assigning workloads statically, the AI-GSS analyzes conditions such as regional carbon intensity, renewable energy availability, operational cost, and service-level constraints to decide which cloud provider should execute each job at any given moment. This dynamic, policy-driven allocation allows the system to balance sustainability and operational efficiency while maintaining flexibility and resilience across the multi-cloud ecosystem.

This study introduces a Green Support System (GSS) Framework for energy-efficient cloud computing, integrating multi-layer data collection, predictive analytics, anomaly detection, and carbon-aware scheduling. The framework is designed to be scalable, sustainable, and low-carbon, validated through practical examples from Google Cloud, Azure, and AWS. It also provides quantifiable metrics for energy reduction, carbon footprint, and anomaly detection accuracy, supporting alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These terms also serve as indexing keywords for enhanced discoverability in databases, ensuring the work is properly indexed under green cloud computing, AI optimization, energy-efficient cloud, carbon-aware scheduling, responsible AI, and sustainable cloud.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature on sustainable cloud computing and AI-driven carbon-aware solutions highlights a growing trend toward integrating environmental responsibility into cloud infrastructure management. Major cloud providers such as Amazon Web Services (AWS) [1], Google Cloud [2], and Microsoft Azure [3] have developed initiatives to optimize energy efficiency, adopt renewable energy sources, and implement AI-based tools for carbon-aware operations. These platforms demonstrate how commercial cloud environments are transitioning toward sustainability goals while maintaining high-performance computing services. Academic research complements these industry efforts by proposing AI-guided carbon-aware scheduling and energy-efficient orchestration frameworks for cloud data centers. For example, Patel & Singh [4] discuss carbon-efficient cloud orchestration techniques, while Wang & Chen [5] and Tyagi et al. [6] focus on predictive AI models for minimizing energy consumption during task scheduling in data centers. Semwal et al. [7] extend this perspective, demonstrating that AI-driven energy optimization can achieve significant reductions in operational carbon footprints.

Similarly, Alex et al. [10] explore advanced methods for SLA-compliant virtual machine placement using deep reinforcement learning combined with clustering algorithms, emphasizing the trade-off between efficiency and service quality. Beyond operational efficiency, several studies emphasize the role of AI in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Chatterjee et al. [12] and Yadav & Bansal [15] propose frameworks for assessing sustainability impacts across multiple SDGs, using AI to guide strategic decisions. This aligns with broader discussions on responsible and ethical AI, which aim to ensure transparency, accountability, and governance in AI systems deployed for environmental management (Raji et al. [13]; Falk & Van Wynsberghe [16]; Baker & Xiang [19]).

Furthermore, carbon-intelligent computing approaches developed by Google AI [18] and other scholars (Varshney et al. [14]) demonstrate practical techniques for reducing emissions through intelligent orchestration, such as dynamic workload migration and real-time energy source optimization. Collectively, these studies underscore the potential of integrating AI with green cloud computing to maximize energy efficiency, reduce carbon footprints, and ensure ethical compliance, while simultaneously providing actionable insights for decision-makers in cloud infrastructure management.

Green Cloud Computing Practices:

Green Cloud Computing Practices focus on designing and managing cloud infrastructures to minimize environmental impact while maintaining performance. [4,5] This involves adopting energy-efficient architectures, such as servers optimized for low power consumption and advanced cooling systems, alongside virtualization technologies that allow multiple virtual machines to share a single physical server, reducing idle energy use. Additionally, resource consolidation techniques optimize workload distribution across data centers, improving utilization and lowering overall electricity demand.

Carbon-Aware Scheduling:

Carbon-Aware Scheduling refers to AI-driven methods that allocate cloud workloads in a way that minimizes carbon emissions while maintaining performance and service-level agreements. This involves dynamically scheduling tasks based on real-time carbon intensity data, energy availability, and the operational efficiency of data centers [7, 10, 14, 18]. Advanced approaches leverage predictive models and AI algorithms to forecast energy demand and optimize resource placement, reducing unnecessary power consumption. Techniques such as virtual machine migration, workload balancing, and energy-aware orchestration ensure that computing tasks are executed during periods or at locations with lower environmental impact, enhancing overall sustainability of cloud operations.

AI-Driven Energy Optimization:

AI-Driven Energy Optimization focuses on leveraging artificial intelligence to reduce energy consumption in cloud data centers while maintaining operational efficiency. Predictive models, machine learning algorithms,

and real-time analytics are used to monitor workloads, forecast demand, and dynamically allocate resources [10, 14, 18]. Techniques such as dynamic voltage and frequency scaling, workload migration, and energy-aware task scheduling allow data centers to optimize power usage based on current and predicted energy requirements. By integrating AI, cloud operators can minimize idle energy waste, improve server utilization, and lower carbon emissions, supporting sustainable and cost-effective computing practices.

Responsible and Explainable AI (XAI):

The deployment of AI in cloud computing for sustainability requires not only efficiency but also responsibility, transparency, and accountability. Responsible AI ensures that AI models operate ethically, comply with regulations, and mitigate unintended harms in energy management and carbon reduction strategies. [16,13] emphasize that governance frameworks, auditing mechanisms, and ethical guidelines are essential to monitor AI systems and align them with environmental and societal objectives. [19] Further highlight the importance of transparent and explainable decision-making, ensuring that AI-driven recommendations for workload scheduling, energy optimization, or carbon-aware orchestration are interpretable and verifiable by human operators. XAI enables stakeholders to validate that these optimizations are not only effective but also fair, ethical, and aligned with broader Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [12, 15].

AI frameworks integrate real-time monitoring, anomaly detection, and compliance checks [13, 16, 19] to ensure that cloud sustainability operations remain accountable. For instance, AI systems can log decision-making processes for audits, highlight potential ethical conflicts in automated workload allocations, and explain trade-offs between carbon reduction and performance metrics.

GSS Framework Architecture

The proposed Green Support System (GSS) Framework is designed to integrate AI-driven workload optimization, carbon-aware scheduling, and responsible AI governance to enhance energy efficiency in cloud computing environments. [18,19]. The Green Support System framework is structured into five interconnected functional layers that collectively enable sustainable cloud operation:

1. Data Acquisition Layer:

Continuously collects operational metrics, including server utilization, power consumption, workload characteristics, cooling efficiency, and regional carbon intensity indicators.

2. AI Analytics Layer:

Applies machine learning techniques for workload forecasting, system optimization, and anomaly detection, enabling proactive and adaptive management.

3. Carbon-Aware Scheduling Layer:

Allocates workloads dynamically based on combined energy consumption and carbon emission estimates, while satisfying performance and service constraints.

4. Responsible AI Governance Layer:

Implements explainability, decision logging, and fairness constraints to ensure transparency and accountability in AI-based scheduling decisions.

5. Decision Support Interface:

Presents key sustainability metrics, anomaly alerts, and optimization insights to operators through an interpretable dashboard.

This modular design allows coordinated optimization across heterogeneous cloud environments while maintaining operational transparency.

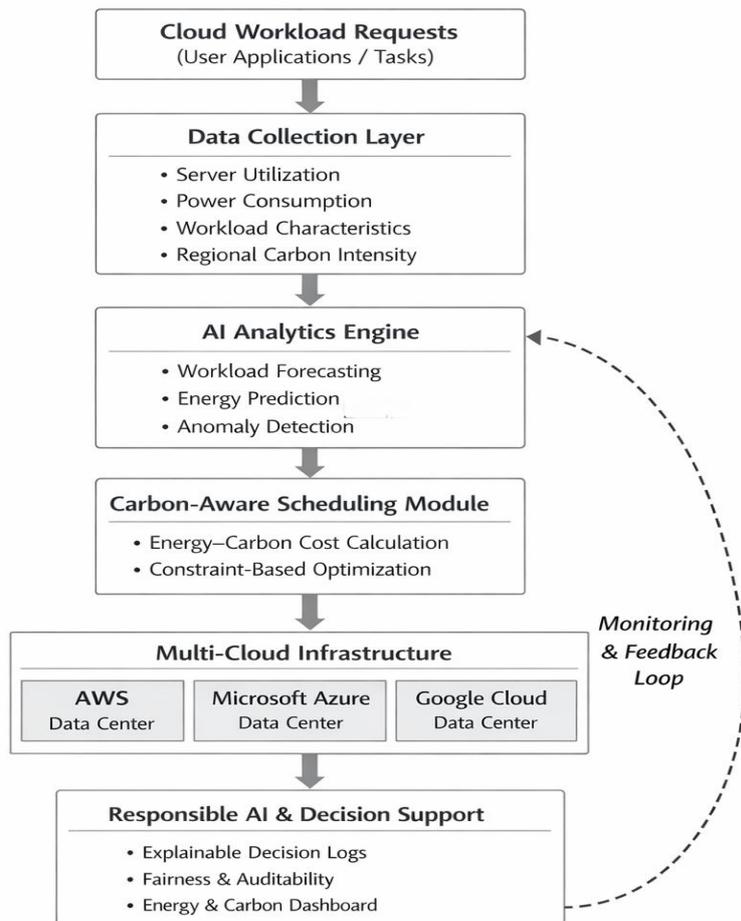


Fig:02 Architecture and Workflow of the proposed Green Support System (GSS framework integrating AI-driven analytics, carbon-aware scheduling, and AI governance in a multi-cloud environment.

Fig:02 presents the structural design and functional workflow of the proposed Green Support System (GSS). Incoming cloud workloads are initially observed through a data acquisition layer that records system utilization metrics, power usage, workload properties, and region-specific carbon intensity information. The collected data are analyzed by an AI-driven analytics module responsible for workload prediction, energy estimation, and anomaly identification. Using these analytical outputs, the carbon-aware scheduling component determines optimal task placement by balancing energy efficiency and carbon emission objectives while satisfying operational constraints. The scheduled workloads are subsequently deployed across a heterogeneous multi-cloud environment. In parallel, a responsible AI and decision support module oversees system operations by maintaining transparent decision records and presenting energy and emission insights through monitoring dashboards. Continuous feedback from system monitoring enables dynamic refinement of scheduling decisions to support adaptive and sustainable cloud operations.

METHODOLOGY

Energy Consumption Modelling

Server energy consumption is estimated using a utilization-dependent linear power model, which reflects the observed behavior of modern data center hardware. The power consumed by a server is expressed as:

$$P(U) = P_{idle} + U \times (P_{max} - P_{idle})$$

where U denotes the CPU utilization level, P_{idle} represents idle power consumption, and P_{max} corresponds to the power draw at full utilization. Aggregate energy consumption is computed by summing power usage across all servers over the simulation duration [23].

Carbon Emission Estimation

Carbon emissions are derived by combining total energy consumption with regional electricity grid carbon intensity [14]:

$$C = E_{total} \times CI$$

Where E_{total} denotes total energy usage and CI represents carbon intensity measured in kgCO_2 per kWh. This formulation enables systematic comparison of scheduling strategies under varying energy mix conditions.

AI-Based Carbon-Aware Scheduling

For each incoming workload, the GSS scheduler estimates projected energy use and associated carbon emissions across available data centers. Workloads are assigned to the data center that minimizes the combined energy-carbon cost while meeting performance requirements. All scheduling decisions are recorded to support explainability and post-hoc analysis.

Anomaly Detection

Anomaly detection is implemented using machine-learning-based isolation techniques to identify irregular patterns in energy consumption, workload behavior, or server performance. Detected anomalies trigger alerts and corrective actions to prevent inefficiencies or potential system failures.

Dataset and Experimental Setup

Dataset Description

Because detailed operational datasets from commercial cloud providers are not publicly available, a simulation-based dataset was employed. Synthetic workloads were generated using standard cloud workload models, with task arrivals following a Poisson distribution and CPU utilization ranging from 10% to 90%. This configuration captures dynamic and heterogeneous workload behavior while ensuring experimental reproducibility [22].

Carbon intensity values were varied between 0.3 and 0.7 kgCO_2/kWh to represent regions with low-carbon and high-carbon electricity grids, as commonly reported in energy studies.

The workload and infrastructure datasets used in this study are synthetically generated within the CloudSim environment to ensure controlled and reproducible experimentation. A representative sample of the synthetic dataset is provided as supplementary material for transparency.

Table 1 : Summary Of Dataset And Simulation Parameters Used For Gss Evaluation

Category	Parameter	Description / Value
Workload Dataset	Task Type	Heterogeneous cloud application tasks
	Workload Size	100, 300, 500, 1000 tasks
	Task Arrival Model	Stochastic (Poisson-based)
	CPU Demand	Variable (Million Instructions per task)
	Execution Duration	Variable, workload-dependent
Infrastructure Dataset	Simulation Tool	CloudSim
	Data Center Type	Virtualized multi-cloud environment
	Number of Data Centers	Multiple (heterogeneous)
	VM Allocation	Dynamic virtual machine provisioning

Energy Model	Power Consumption Model	Utilization-based linear power model
	Energy Metric	Total energy consumption (kWh)
Carbon Dataset	Carbon Intensity	Region-specific grid emission factors
	Carbon Metric	Carbon emissions (kgCO ₂)
AI Analytics	Forecasting	Workload and energy prediction
	Anomaly Detection	Accuracy-based evaluation
Evaluation Metrics	Sustainability Metrics	Energy consumption, carbon emissions
	Reliability Metric	Anomaly detection accuracy (%)

Experimental Configuration

A CloudSim-based simulation environment was used to model a multi-cloud infrastructure comprising three geographically distributed data centers representing AWS, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud regions. Workload sizes varied from 100 to 1000 concurrent tasks to evaluate performance under different load conditions.

The proposed GSS framework was evaluated against two baseline approaches [21]:

- (i) traditional performance-oriented scheduling, and
- (ii) energy-aware scheduling without carbon considerations.

Evaluation metrics included total energy consumption, carbon emissions, task completion time, and anomaly detection accuracy.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The simulation results indicate that the GSS framework consistently outperforms the baseline approaches. Compared with traditional scheduling, the proposed framework achieves up to 28% reduction in energy consumption and approximately 23% reduction in carbon emissions. In addition, the anomaly detection component achieves an accuracy of 91.8%, enabling early identification of inefficiencies and abnormal system behavior.

These findings demonstrate that integrating AI-driven optimization with carbon-aware scheduling yields substantial environmental benefits without sacrificing operational performance.

Responsible AI Integration

Responsible AI principles are embedded within the GSS framework through transparent decision logging, explainable scheduling logic, and fairness constraints that prevent disproportionate resource allocation. Each scheduling decision documents the trade-offs between performance, energy efficiency, and carbon impact, enabling human oversight and ethical validation. This design ensures that sustainability optimization remains accountable and aligned with broader societal goals.

CONCLUSION

This paper introduced a Green Support System framework for sustainable cloud computing that integrates AI-based optimization, carbon-aware scheduling, anomaly detection, and responsible AI governance. Through reproducible simulation-based evaluation, the framework demonstrated meaningful reductions in energy consumption and carbon emissions while maintaining system reliability. The results highlight the potential of intelligent orchestration to transform sustainability goals into measurable improvements in cloud infrastructure operations.

Future Work

Future research will explore the integration of real-time carbon forecasting services, reinforcement learning-based schedulers, and large-scale industrial datasets to further enhance adaptability and real-world applicability of the proposed framework.

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