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Green Technologies for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development in Nigeria: Innovations, Impacts, And Policy Pathways

Umar, S[1]., Adamu, R[2]., Shuaibu, A[3]., Adamu, R[4]., Adamu, J.[5]., Abdulkarim, A. Y.[6]., Muhammad, M. I[6]., Abdullahi, M. B.[7].

[1]Department of Computer Science, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Nigeria
[2]Department of Physics, Federal University of Kashere, Gombe State, Nigeria
[3]Department of Environmental and Life Sciences Education, Modibbo Adama University, Yola, Adamawa State, Nigeria
[4]Department of Business Education, National Open University of Nigeria, Jabi, Abuja, Nigeria
[5]Department of Physical Sciences Education, Modibbo Adama University, Yola, Adamawa State, Nigeria
[6]Department of Chemical Engineering, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Nigeria
[7]Department of Biological Sciences, Federal University of Kashere, Gombe State, Nigeria

Abstract

Nigeria's pursuit of economic development is increasingly influenced by interconnected challenges, including energy insecurity, rapid urbanisation, inadequate waste management, environmental pollution, ecosystem degradation, and climate variability. Green technologies provide a strategic pathway for addressing these pressures by improving resource efficiency, reducing pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions, strengthening environmental and socioeconomic resilience, and creating new economic opportunities. This review examines the relevance, applications, environmental implications, socioeconomic benefits, adoption barriers, and policy requirements of green technologies in Nigeria. Particular attention is given to distributed renewable energy systems, circular waste management and resource recovery, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable water and land management, cleaner transportation, green manufacturing, and digital environmental monitoring. Evidence synthesized from Nigerian policy documents, development-agency reports, and recent scholarly studies demonstrates substantial potential for green technologies to support sustainable development across multiple sectors. However, the evidence also indicates that technology availability alone is insufficient to guarantee sustainable outcomes. Major constraints include high upfront investment costs, infrastructure deficits, limited technical capacity, institutional fragmentation, weak regulatory enforcement, quality-assurance challenges, and unequal access to finance. The review therefore advocates a systems-oriented approach in which technological deployment is integrated with effective regulation, appropriate financing mechanisms, local technical skills development, robust quality assurance, environmental safeguards, community participation, and clearly defined, measurable performance indicators. Such an integrated framework is essential for ensuring that green technologies deliver durable environmental improvements, inclusive socioeconomic benefits, enhanced climate resilience, and sustained contributions to Nigeria's long-term development objectives across the country while minimizing unintended environmental and social consequences associated with poorly planned technological interventions.

Keywords
Green Technology;
Environmental Protection;
Circular Economy;
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Faculty of Science, ATBU Bauchi

Corresponding Author: Abdullahi, M. B., Department of Biological Sciences, Federal University of Kashere, Gombe State, Nigeria.
Email: mabelloo@fukashere.edu.ng

1. Introduction

Nigeria is experiencing a convergence of environmental and socioeconomic pressures associated with population growth, urbanisation, expanding consumption, infrastructure deficits, energy insecurity and climate change. These pressures interact rather than occur independently. Growing urban populations increase demand for energy, transport and waste services; inadequate infrastructure can increase pollution; unreliable electricity supply can encourage dependence on petrol- and diesel-powered generators; and climate variability can increase risks to agriculture and natural-resource-dependent livelihoods (World Bank, 2024a; Federal Government of Nigeria [FGN], 2024).

This convergence creates a compelling case for green technologies as instruments of environmental protection and sustainable development. Green technologies include products, processes and systems that reduce environmental pressures while improving resource productivity and human welfare. Their application extends beyond renewable energy to include resource-efficient production, pollution prevention, waste recovery, sustainable agriculture, water conservation, cleaner transportation, ecosystem restoration and digital environmental monitoring (Geissdoerfer et al., 2017; IPCC, 2022). The central principle is therefore not simply to substitute one technology for another, but to redesign production and consumption systems so that environmental pressures are reduced without compromising essential development needs.

The Nigerian context is particularly important because environmental sustainability must be pursued alongside major development requirements. Nigeria needs expanded electricity access, industrial development, improved transport, food-system transformation and urban infrastructure. Consequently, environmental policy should not be based solely on restricting resource use; it should promote technologies and institutional arrangements capable of meeting development needs while reducing ecological costs (FGN, 2024; World Bank, 2023).

Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan (ETP) provides an important policy framework for this transformation. The ETP sets out a pathway towards carbon neutrality by 2060 and identifies power, cooking, oil and gas, transport and industry as major sectors requiring transformation. The plan emphasises improved energy access, emissions reduction, investment and a just transition as complementary objectives (Federal Government of Nigeria [FGN], 2024).

Progress is evident in the distributed renewable-energy sector. The Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP) supported the establishment of 125 mini-grids and the sale of more than one million solar home systems, through which more than 5.5 million Nigerians gained access to electricity and more than 5,000 private-sector local green jobs were created. The subsequent Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up (DARES) programme is designed to provide new or improved electricity access to more than 17.5 million Nigerians through distributed renewable-energy solutions (World Bank, 2023, 2025).

Similar opportunities exist in waste management. Nigeria's waste-management system faces persistent challenges involving collection, disposal, source separation, recycling and plastic pollution. At the same time, these challenges create opportunities for circular-economy development through waste prevention, reuse, recycling, composting, resource recovery and extended producer responsibility (Federal Ministry of Environment [FME], 2022; United Nations Environment Programme [UNEP], 2024).

Agriculture presents another important frontier. Climate variability, soil degradation, water stress and ecosystem degradation can undermine the resilience of Nigerian food systems. Climate-smart agriculture combines productivity improvement with adaptation and, where feasible, mitigation. Recent studies of Nigerian farmers show that adoption of climate-smart practices is influenced by factors such as extension contact, education, access to credit, cooperative membership and local production conditions (Mbanasor et al., 2024; Saadu et al., 2024).

However, the adoption of green technologies remains uneven. Technological solutions may be technically appropriate but financially inaccessible; recycling technologies may be ineffective where collection and source separation are absent; and water-saving technologies may fail where users lack technical support, finance or appropriate operating conditions. The challenge is therefore not simply to identify environmentally preferable technologies but to determine which technologies work, under what conditions, at what scale and with what environmental and socioeconomic consequences.

This review examines major green-technology pathways relevant to Nigeria, evaluates their environmental and socioeconomic implications, identifies barriers to adoption, and proposes policy and institutional pathways for scaling them. The analysis adopts a systems perspective in which technology is considered part of a broader socio-ecological system involving natural resources, communities, markets, institutions and governance.

This paper adopted a narrative review approach. Relevant evidence was drawn from peer-reviewed scholarly literature, official Nigerian policy and regulatory documents, and reports from established international organisations and development agencies. Priority was given to sources published from 2020 onward for current policy, technology and implementation evidence, while older seminal studies were retained where they provide foundational concepts or widely used analytical frameworks. Sources were selected for their direct relevance to Nigeria's green-technology pathways, environmental impacts, adoption barriers and policy responses. The evidence was synthesised thematically around renewable energy, circular economy and waste management, green agriculture, sustainable transport, green manufacturing, socioeconomic and environmental impacts, barriers, and policy pathways. Claims for which a reliable source could not be verified were removed or rewritten in more cautious terms.

2. Review Approach

3. Green Technologies: Conceptual Foundations and Principles

Green technology is understood in this review as a broad class of technological and organisational innovations intended to reduce environmental pressures and improve resource productivity. The concept overlaps with clean technology, environmental technology, eco-innovation and circular-economy approaches. Five principles provide a useful framework for evaluating green technologies in Nigeria:

resource efficiency, renewable substitution, pollution prevention, circularity and ecosystem compatibility (Geissdoerfer et al., 2017; IPCC, 2022).

Table 1. Core principles of green technologies and their Nigerian applications

Principle	Core meaning	Nigerian applications
Resource efficiency	Delivering equivalent or improved services with lower material, energy or water inputs	Energy-efficient appliances, efficient irrigation, industrial energy management, water-saving technologies
Renewable substitution	Replacing finite or high-emission energy/material inputs with renewable alternatives	Solar PV, mini-grids, solar water pumping, biogas, sustainable biomass
Pollution prevention	Preventing pollutants at source rather than treating them after release	Cleaner production, emission controls, wastewater treatment, non-toxic production processes
Circularity	Keeping materials and nutrients in productive use and reducing waste	Recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion, industrial symbiosis, repair and reuse
Ecosystem compatibility	Maintaining or restoring ecological processes and ecosystem services	Agroforestry, ecological restoration, nature-based water management and green infrastructure

A key conceptual distinction is between green technology and technology in general. A technology should not automatically be considered environmentally sustainable merely because it is new or described as "green". Its performance should be assessed across its life cycle, including raw-material extraction, manufacturing, transport, operation, maintenance and end-of-life management. This perspective is especially relevant to solar photovoltaic systems, batteries, electric vehicles and waste-conversion technologies because environmental benefits may depend on how equipment is manufactured, operated and ultimately managed at end of life (Gaines, 2018; IEA, 2024). Similarly, waste-to-energy should not displace higher-value options such as prevention, reuse, recycling and composting where those options are technically and economically preferable.

A life-cycle perspective is particularly important for Nigeria because rapid urbanisation, industrialisation and technological consumption are changing the scale and complexity of material and energy flows. Green technology policy should therefore consider not only direct emissions or waste reduction, but also upstream resource use, infrastructure requirements, maintenance, affordability and end-of-life management (IPCC, 2022; UNEP, 2024).

4. Major Green Technology Applications in Nigeria

4.1 Renewable Energy and Decentralised Electricity Systems

Renewable energy is a strategically important green-technology pathway for Nigeria, where inadequate and unreliable electricity supply has contributed to dependence on petrol- and diesel-powered generators. Distributed solar technologies are particularly relevant to rural and peri-urban communities where grid extension may be technically difficult or economically costly. Solar mini-grids, standalone solar systems, solar-powered water infrastructure and hybrid renewable systems can support households, health facilities, schools, enterprises and agricultural processing while reducing dependence on fossil-fuel generators (World Bank, 2023, 2025).

Table 2. Renewable-energy pathways relevant to Nigeria

Technology	Principal application	Environmental/development benefits
Solar mini-grids	Rural and underserved communities	Reduced generator dependence, improved electricity access and local enterprise development
Solar home systems	Dispersed households	Basic electricity services, reduced kerosene/generator use
Solar systems for public facilities	Schools, clinics, water facilities	Improved service reliability and reduced operating costs
Solar irrigation	Smallholder and commercial agriculture	Reduced diesel use and potentially lower irrigation costs
Biogas	Farms, markets, abattoirs and institutions	Organic-waste treatment, energy recovery and nutrient recycling
Small-scale hydropower	Suitable rural locations	Renewable electricity with potentially long service life

The regulatory environment for distributed electricity is also evolving. The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission's Mini-Grid Regulations 2023 provide a framework for isolated and interconnected mini-grids, including provisions relating to registration, permits, tariffs, service requirements, interconnection and consumer protection (Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission [NERC], 2023). The regulatory framework represents an important move towards a more structured distributed-energy market. Nevertheless, deployment must be accompanied by quality assurance, appropriate installation, maintenance capacity and effective after-sales services.

The Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) has responsibilities for standards development and product conformity assessment, while its electrical/electronic technical group covers renewable-energy-related standards (Standards Organisation of Nigeria [SON], 2026a, 2026b).

4.2 Circular Economy, Waste Management and Resource Recovery

Waste management is one of Nigeria's major environmental challenges and an important green-economy opportunity. A linear system based on extraction, consumption and disposal creates environmental costs while wasting materials with potential economic value. Circular-economy approaches instead prioritise prevention, reduction, reuse, repair, recycling and recovery. In Nigeria, these approaches are particularly relevant to plastics, food and market waste, agricultural residues, paper, metals, electronic waste and wastewater (FME, 2022; UNEP, 2024).

Informal waste workers also play an important role in material recovery and should be considered in the design of formal circular-economy systems. Policies that improve occupational safety, recognition, organisation, access to finance and integration into municipal collection and recycling systems can strengthen both environmental performance and livelihoods. UNEP's work on extended producer responsibility in Nigeria also highlights the importance of including recyclers and waste pickers in the development of plastic-management systems (UNEP, 2024).

Table 3. Waste-to-value pathways

Waste stream	**Green technology**	**Potential products**	**Environmental value**
Food and market waste	Composting	Compost/soil amendment	Nutrient recovery and reduced landfill burden
Food and animal waste	Anaerobic digestion	Biogas and digestate	Renewable energy and organic-waste treatment
Plastics	Mechanical recycling	Pellets and secondary products	Reduced virgin-material demand
Agricultural residues	Briquetting/pelletisation	Solid biofuel	Substitution for conventional fuels
Agricultural residues	Biochar production	Soil amendment	Carbon management and soil improvement
Wastewater	Biological treatment and resource recovery	Treated water, nutrients, biogas	Water reuse and pollution reduction
E-waste	Material recovery	Metals and reusable components	Reduced hazardous disposal and resource recovery

Plastic waste deserves particular attention because of its persistence, leakage into the environment and potential value as a secondary material. Nigeria's National Policy on Plastic Waste Management provides a policy basis for reducing plastic pollution and improving resource recovery, while current work on extended producer responsibility seeks to strengthen producer accountability for post-consumer plastic packaging (FME, 2022; UNEP, 2024).

However, circularity must be designed according to material characteristics and local ecological conditions. Composting organic waste, for example, is generally preferable to uncontrolled decomposition because it enables nutrient recovery, whereas recycling contaminated plastics may require specialised treatment. Similarly, anaerobic digestion is most effective where organic feedstocks can be reliably collected and where markets exist for biogas and digestate.

4.3 Green Agriculture, Soil Management and Water Efficiency

Agriculture occupies a central position in Nigeria's economy and rural livelihood systems. Green technology in agriculture should not be restricted to high-cost precision farming. A more appropriate approach combines accessible digital technologies with ecological management practices. Important interventions include efficient irrigation, solar-powered pumping, climate-information services, improved soil-fertility management, conservation practices, agroforestry, biological inputs, improved varieties and digital extension services (FAO, 2021; Mbanasor et al., 2024).

Climate-smart agriculture is particularly relevant because it seeks to increase productivity while strengthening resilience and, where possible, reducing emissions. Recent evidence from Nigeria indicates that farmers adopt practices such as crop rotation, residue management, improved varieties, changes in planting dates and other locally appropriate measures, but adoption is influenced by access to extension, credit, education and other socioeconomic factors (Mbanasor et al., 2024; Saadu et al., 2024).

The ecological value of green agricultural technologies can be substantial. Efficient irrigation can improve water-use efficiency; agroforestry can contribute to soil protection and habitat connectivity; organic amendments can support soil structure and nutrient cycling; and integrated pest-management approaches can reduce reliance on hazardous chemical inputs (FAO, 2021; IPCC, 2022).

The greatest potential therefore lies in combining technological innovation with ecological knowledge. For example, a solar irrigation system becomes more sustainable when coupled with water budgeting, soil-moisture monitoring and appropriate crop selection. Likewise, digital weather information becomes more useful when translated into locally appropriate planting, water-management and crop-protection decisions (FAO, 2021; Mbanasor et al., 2024).

4.4 Cleaner Transport and Sustainable Urban Mobility

Transport is another major area in which green technologies can contribute to environmental protection. Conventional road transport contributes to air pollution, greenhouse-gas emissions, congestion and noise, while rapid urbanisation increases demand for efficient mobility systems. Sustainable urban transport therefore requires attention to public transport, walking, cycling, vehicle efficiency and cleaner fuels and technologies (World Bank, 2024b; UNEP, 2024).

Potential interventions include vehicle-efficiency standards, public transport improvement, bus rapid transit, safe non-motorised transport infrastructure, fleet optimisation, electric mobility and appropriate charging infrastructure. Recent international guidance emphasises that electric mobility should be combined with public transport and active mobility rather than treated as a stand-alone replacement for private vehicles (IEA, 2024; UNEP, 2024).

Electrification should not be viewed as an isolated technological solution. Its environmental benefits depend partly on the electricity-generation mix, vehicle utilisation, battery production and end-of-life management. Nigeria should therefore pursue electric mobility alongside cleaner electricity, battery stewardship, public transportation and

improved urban planning (Gaines, 2018; IEA, 2024).
A broader systems approach would prioritise moving people efficiently rather than simply replacing every internal-combustion vehicle with an electric equivalent (Geels, 2012; Creutzig et al., 2015; Sperling, 2018). Compact urban development, public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure can reduce energy demand while improving public health (Sallis et al., 2016; IPCC, 2022).

4.5 Green Manufacturing and Industrial Ecology

Industrial development is essential to Nigeria's economic transformation, but industrial growth can increase energy consumption, waste generation and pollution when production systems remain resource intensive. Green manufacturing seeks to reduce material and energy use, minimise waste and emissions, improve process efficiency and incorporate cleaner inputs. Relevant interventions include energy-efficient machinery, industrial energy audits, wastewater treatment, cleaner production, heat recovery, renewable-energy integration and industrial symbiosis (Lieder & Rashid, 2016; UNIDO, 2025).

Industrial symbiosis is particularly promising because the output of one process can become the input of another. Agro-industrial residues, for example, can be used as feedstocks for bioenergy, while organic by-products can be converted into soil amendments. Nigerian studies have identified substantial biomass resources and conversion opportunities, although economic, technical and institutional constraints continue to limit large-scale deployment (Jekayinfa et al., 2020; Ezealigo et al., 2021).

5. Environmental and Socioeconomic Impacts

The value of green technologies should be assessed through multiple dimensions rather than carbon reduction alone.

Table 4. Major impacts of green technologies in Nigeria

Dimension	Potential outcomes
Climate	Lower greenhouse-gas emissions and improved climate resilience
Air quality	Reduced combustion-related pollutants
Water	Lower pollution loads and improved water-use efficiency
Soil	Improved fertility, reduced erosion and enhanced nutrient cycling
Biodiversity	Reduced habitat pressure and support for ecological restoration
Energy	Increased access, diversification and reduced dependence on fossil fuels
Economy	New enterprises, employment and local value chains
Health	Reduced exposure to household and ambient pollution
Social welfare	Improved electricity and essential-service reliability
Governance	Better environmental monitoring and accountability

An important benefit of green technologies is their potential to generate co-benefits. A solar-powered rural health facility can simultaneously improve energy reliability, health-service delivery and climate resilience. Composting market waste can simultaneously reduce disposal pressures, recover nutrients and create local economic activity. Renewable-energy installation and maintenance, recycling, environmental monitoring, equipment manufacturing and ecosystem restoration can also create employment opportunities when supported by appropriate skills and investment (ILO, 2018; IRENA, 2023).

Environmental benefits can be especially significant where technological interventions reduce pressure on natural ecosystems. Reduced dependence on traditional biomass can lower pressure on forests, while improved agricultural productivity may reduce incentives for land expansion when productivity gains are achieved without causing additional ecological damage. However, such benefits depend on local conditions and should be assessed rather than assumed (FAO, 2021; IPCC, 2022).

6. Major Barriers to Green Technology Adoption

Despite considerable opportunities, green-technology deployment in Nigeria remains constrained by interacting structural barriers. Many technologies require relatively high initial capital expenditure even when lifetime operating costs are lower. This can discourage households, farmers, municipalities and small enterprises with limited access to affordable finance. Appropriate instruments include concessional lending, guarantees, results-based financing, leasing, pay-as-you-go models, green bonds and blended finance, with funding increasingly linked to measurable environmental and social outcomes (World Bank, 2023; IEA, 2024).

Weak electricity infrastructure, inadequate waste-collection systems, poor transport infrastructure and limited testing facilities can reduce the effectiveness of green technologies. Deployment should therefore be accompanied by investment in enabling infrastructure, technical training and maintenance systems. Nigeria also requires a stronger technical workforce covering renewable-energy installation, electrical systems, waste processing, environmental monitoring, data analytics, equipment maintenance and ecological restoration (IRENA, 2023; UNIDO, 2025).

Environmental and technological responsibilities are distributed across numerous federal, state and local institutions. Where responsibilities overlap without effective coordination, enforcement becomes inconsistent. Nigeria therefore needs integrated environmental governance supported by clearly defined institutional responsibilities, shared databases and measurable performance indicators (UNEP, 2019; FGN, 2021).

Quality assurance is particularly important for renewable-energy equipment and environmental technologies. The existence of standards is insufficient if testing, certification and market surveillance remain weak. SON provides an institutional foundation for conformity assessment and product certification; strengthening laboratory capacity, certification systems and market surveillance should therefore remain a priority (SON, 2026a, 2026b).

Technological transitions can create both benefits and distributional risks. Formal recycling systems may exclude informal waste workers; automation may displace some lowskilled labour; and clean-energy systems may remain inaccessible to low-income households. A just green transition should therefore include affordability safeguards, skills upgrading and mechanisms for integrating existing informal-sector workers (ILO, 2018; UNEP, 2024).

7. Strategic Pathways for Accelerating Green Technology Adoption

The evidence suggests that Nigeria should move beyond isolated technology projects towards integrated green-technology systems. Financing mechanisms should be designed for distributed renewable energy, circular-economy enterprises, climate-smart agriculture, clean transport and environmental infrastructure. Green finance should prioritise technologies with demonstrable environmental and socioeconomic outcomes and should include mechanisms that can reach small enterprises and community-level projects (World Bank, 2023; FGN, 2021).

Nigeria should expand accredited testing laboratories for renewable-energy equipment, batteries, recycling technologies and environmental-monitoring instruments. Local manufacturing and assembly should be promoted where economically viable and where quality can be maintained. Green-technology deployment also requires technicians, engineers, ecologists, environmental scientists, data analysts, entrepreneurs and policy specialists; universities and technical institutions should therefore support interdisciplinary training and technology localisation (IRENA, 2023; UNIDO, 2025).

Digital technologies, including Internet of Things sensors, remote sensing, geographic information systems, artificial intelligence and environmental data platforms, can improve environmental monitoring and decision-making. Their value is greatest when data are reliable, institutions have the capacity to use them, and information is linked to enforcement and public accountability (UNEP, 2019; IPCC, 2022).

Digital monitoring can support:

- air-quality monitoring;
- water-quality assessment;
- waste-flow tracking;
- renewable-energy performance monitoring;
- land-degradation assessment;
- environmental compliance;
- greenhouse-gas inventories; and
- climate-risk mapping.

The objective should be to move from reactive environmental management towards data-driven governance. Municipal authorities should progressively introduce source separation, material-recovery facilities, composting and organics management. Procurement policies can create demand for recycled products, while extended producer responsibility can encourage manufacturers to consider the post-consumer phase of their products. Nigeria's plastic-waste policy and emerging EPR framework provide a basis for this transition (FME, 2022; UNEP, 2024).

Green-technology policy should explicitly recognise ecological carrying capacity. Renewable-energy development should consider land-use and biodiversity implications; bioenergy should avoid unsustainable biomass harvesting; agricultural intensification should protect soil and water resources; and infrastructure development should avoid critical habitats. Ecological safeguards are therefore an essential part of responsible green development (FAO, 2021; IPCC, 2022).

8. Policy Pathways for Nigeria

Federal policy should focus on coherent national standards, predictable investment conditions, environmental safeguards and appropriate financing mechanisms. Priority actions include scaling distributed renewable energy, strengthening circular-economy systems, expanding green finance, developing green skills, improving environmental monitoring and promoting local innovation and manufacturing.

1. Scale distributed renewable energy through stable regulation, quality standards and appropriate finance (World Bank, 2023; NERC, 2023).
2. Strengthen circular-economy policy through source separation, recycling markets and extended producer responsibility (FME, 2022; UNEP, 2024).
3. Expand green finance through concessional finance, guarantees, green bonds and blended-finance mechanisms (FGN, 2021; World Bank, 2023).
4. Develop national green-skills programmes linked to universities, technical institutions and industry (ILO, 2018; IRENA, 2023).
5. Strengthen environmental monitoring, reporting and verification through digital systems and transparent reporting (FGN, 2021; IPCC, 2022).
6. Promote local innovation and manufacturing through competitive research and development programmes, standards and quality assurance (SON, 2026a; UNIDO, 2025).
7. Align green-technology policy with Nigeria's climate commitments and Energy Transition Plan (FGN, 2021, 2024).

Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan provides an overarching pathway towards carbon neutrality by 2060 and emphasises the need to combine emissions reduction with energy access and socioeconomic development (FGN, 2024).

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- State and local governments should translate national objectives into place-specific programmes. Priority actions include solarisation of health facilities, schools and water infrastructure; market-based waste-to-value programmes; integrated municipal waste collection and source separation; climate-smart agricultural extension; urban green infrastructure; sustainable transport planning; and local environmental data systems. Because environmental conditions vary substantially across Nigeria, decentralised implementation and local participation are essential.
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- Community participation should begin during project design rather than after technological decisions have already been made. Private-sector participation is equally important because many green technologies require business models capable of supporting long-term operation and maintenance. Successful deployment should therefore be judged not simply by the number of technologies installed but by whether systems remain functional, affordable, environmentally beneficial and socially accepted over time (ILO, 2018; World Bank, 2023).
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- 9. Toward an Integrated Nigerian Green Technology Framework

- The central argument emerging from this review is that Nigeria's green transition should not be organised around isolated technologies. It should be organised around environmental problems and resource systems. For example, urban organic waste can be addressed through connected systems involving source separation, collection, composting or anaerobic digestion, resource recovery and productive use of recovered materials. Energy poverty can be addressed through renewable generation, storage, mini-grids, efficient appliances, productive-use equipment, digital monitoring, appropriate tariffs and local technical support.

Agricultural sustainability can combine climate information, improved soil management, agroforestry, efficient irrigation, renewable energy and market access. This systems approach provides a stronger basis for sustainable development because environmental problems rarely originate from a single technological failure; they arise from interactions among consumption, production, institutions, ecosystems and markets (FAO, 2021; IPCC, 2022).

10. Conclusion

Green technologies provide Nigeria with opportunities to address environmental degradation while simultaneously improving energy access, strengthening food-system resilience, supporting industrial development, creating employment and enhancing human well-being. Among the most promising pathways are distributed renewable energy, circular waste and resource recovery, climate-smart agriculture, efficient water management, cleaner transport, green manufacturing and digital technologies for environmental monitoring.

However, technology alone cannot deliver sustainable development. The effectiveness and long-term sustainability of green technologies depend on the institutional, economic, ecological and social systems within which they operate. High upfront capital costs, weak infrastructure, inadequate technical capacity, regulatory fragmentation, quality-assurance challenges, limited access to finance and risks of social exclusion remain important constraints to widespread adoption.

Nigeria's experience with the Nigeria Electrification Project demonstrates the potential for combining public policy, development finance and private-sector innovation to accelerate distributed renewable-energy deployment. The emergence of the Mini-Grid Regulations 2023 also indicates movement towards a more structured renewable-energy market.

Nevertheless, these developments need to be complemented by improvements in infrastructure, financing, technical capacity, regulation and local technology development if green technologies are to achieve sustained and scalable impacts. The next phase should therefore move from isolated technology adoption towards technology system-building, supported by green finance, reliable standards, domestic technical capacity, circular-economy infrastructure, digital environmental monitoring and inclusive governance.

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