Waste Segregation Monitoring System for Urban Local Bodies

Mr. Boobalan M[1], Kanmani T[2], Ezhil Sri K[3], Meenakshi Shalini R[4]
[1]*Assistant Professor,Department of CSE,Vivekanandha College of Engineering for Women (Autonomous),Tiruchengode*
[2,3,4] *IV-CSE Student,Vivekanandha College of Engineering for Women (Autonomous), Tiruchengode*

Abstract—**Rapid urbanization has intensified municipal solid waste management challenges, making traditional fixed-schedule collection inefficient. This project proposes a Smart City Waste Management System integrating sensors, automation, and machine learning to monitor bin status, manage lids during adverse weather, compress waste, and segregate degradable and non-degradable materials. The system uses an Arduino microcontroller to automatically classify waste into metal, wet, and dry categories using different sensors. An IR sensor first detects the presence of waste in the input bin. A metal sensor checks if the waste is metallic; if not, a moisture sensor determines whether it is wet or dry. Each bin has an IR sensor to monitor its level, and when full, a compression mechanism compacts the waste to increase storage capacity. When the rain sensor detects rainfall, it sends a signal to the microcontroller to activate the servo motor and close the bin lid. When the rain stops, the sensor detects the absence of water and the microcontroller opens the lid automatically. This helps prevent rainwater from entering the bin and keeps the waste dry, health hazards can be minimized by this. The system enables intelligent monitoring and prediction, improving collection efficiency, urban cleanliness, and environmental sustainability.**

Index Terms—**Automatic Waste Classification, Bin Level Monitoring, Waste Compression Mechanism, Automatic Lid Control Mechanism.**

I. INTRODUCTION

Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) face significant challenges as a result of the substantial increase in municipal solid waste generation brought about by the rapid growth of urbanization and population. Conventional waste management systems are frequently ineffective and unable to satisfy the changing needs of contemporary cities because they rely on manual segregation and set collection schedules. As a result, problems like inappropriate waste segregation, overflowing trash cans, and pollution of the environment have increased.

There are major health and environmental risks associated with improper waste disposal. Combining biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste makes recycling more difficult and uses more landfill space. Additionally, the manual handling of mixed waste exposes sanitation workers to hazardous and unsanitary conditions, underscoring the need for safer and automated solutions.

In order to address these issues, a Waste Segregation Monitoring System using sensor technology, automation, and the Internet of Things (IoT) is proposed. The system employs sensor technology along with a microcontroller for the automatic identification and segregation of different kinds of waste, i.e., wet, dry, and metal. Additionally, the system includes features like the automatic compression of the waste, the smart use of the lid during adverse weather conditions, and the monitoring of the level of the bins.

The use of IoT technology helps the system send data related to the level of the bins in real-time to the cloud platform, which can then be used by the authorities for the efficient management of the waste. The system can help reduce fuel consumption and labor costs. Additionally, the system collects data related to the segregation of the waste, which is then used for the identification of the location and the time interval. The proposed system thus helps in the efficient management of the waste, recycling, and the maintenance of a cleaner environment. The use of automation and IoT technology makes the system reliable and efficient for the management of the waste.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The rapid rise in urban population has also contributed to the generation of municipal solid waste (MSW), which has created many problems for urban local bodies (ULBs). Inefficient segregation of waste at the source level has also been identified as a critical problem in waste management practices. According to research findings, inefficient waste segregation practices have resulted from poor governance, lack of infrastructure facilities, and implementation of policies in developing countries [1].

Segregation of waste has been recognized as a critical waste management practice since it directly affects the recycling efficiency and waste treatment practices. Mixing of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste has resulted in inefficient waste treatment practices and has increased operating costs for waste recycling plants. According to research findings, efficient waste segregation practices using smart waste segregation techniques have resulted in efficient waste processing practices and reduced landfills [2].

In addition to the technical issues, the behavioral factors also have an important impact on the waste segregation practices. Despite the growing awareness, the residents are not able to segregate the wastes in the right manner due to the lack of motivation, facilities, and monitoring from the authorities. The studies highlight the importance of public participation, awareness, and strict policy enforcement for the proper segregation of wastes at the source [3].

Additionally, the waste segregation problem cannot be considered purely technical; it also has socio-environmental implications, including the involvement of various stakeholders such as the residents, municipal staff, and the government authorities. The proper coordination among the stakeholders is necessary for the development of proper waste segregation practices in the urban regions [4].

With the recent advancements in technology, it is possible to develop automatic and intelligent waste segregation systems. In this regard, machine learning and deep learning methods have been widely utilized for accurate identification of the wastes. These systems, along with the Internet of Things (IoT) paradigm, can be utilized for efficient waste handling, making them appropriate for the development of smart cities [5].

Furthermore, studies carried out on the Indian scenario for urban cities reveal that rapid urbanization, lack of financial resources, and inefficient waste collection mechanisms are some of the major factors affecting the overall waste segregation practices. It has also been suggested that the development of infrastructure, region-specific practices, and policy development are essential for efficient waste management in urban local bodies [6].

From the above literature, it can be concluded that efficient waste segregation practices require the development of an integrated approach, where technological innovations, behavioral changes, and institutional developments are essential for efficient waste management. Even though significant developments have been carried out, it is essential to develop efficient solutions for the needs of urban local bodies.

III. EXISTING SYSTEM

The present waste management system, as practiced in urban and semi-urban areas, is based on conventional manual methods. In this method, waste collection is scheduled at regular intervals by the local authorities, and waste collection from houses, streets, and waste bins is carried out according to this schedule. This method does not take into account the actual status of waste bins, and hence waste bins are often found overflowing before the scheduled time for waste collection arrives, resulting in an unhygienic environment, unpleasant odors, and pollution of the environment. On the other hand, waste bins that are not yet full are also picked up, resulting in waste collection being inefficient, as resources like fuel,

manpower, and time are wasted.
One of the major drawbacks of the present waste management system is that waste segregation is not properly carried out at the source of waste generation. Generally, waste generated from urban and semi-urban areas is a mix of biodegradable waste, non-biodegradable waste, and recyclable waste, including plastics and metals. Since waste segregation is not carried out at the initial stage, waste collected from houses, streets, and waste bins is a mix of all types of waste, making it difficult to separate them later on, and hence the efficiency of recycling and composting is reduced, making it inevitable to dump them on land, resulting in pollution of soil, air, and water resources.

Another important limitation of the traditional waste bin system is the absence of real-time monitoring and communication. The traditional waste bin does not have any sensors or devices that measure different parameters such as waste level or types of waste disposed of within the bin. Thus, the authorities are unaware of the exact information regarding the need for waste collection at a particular time and place. This absence of a data-based decision-making approach makes the entire waste management system inefficient and prevents the optimization of waste collection routes for waste collection vehicles.

The waste management system also includes a high level of human intervention in waste handling and monitoring activities. The waste management workers are assigned the task of collecting, transporting, and sometimes even sorting waste manually, which makes the entire waste management process expensive for the authorities. The direct handling of mixed waste also poses a number of health hazards to the workers.

The current waste bins do not offer advanced technology that could enhance efficiency and hygiene. For example, there is no provision for the compression of the waste, which limits the storage capacity of the bins, resulting in the constant overflowing of the bins.

In addition, the current bins do not offer any technology that can help in the management of environmental factors, such as rainwater, which may collect in the bins, creating an unpleasant smell and deteriorating the level of hygiene.

Moreover, the current system does not offer the ability to collect and analyze data. For example, there is no platform that can help the authorities monitor the pattern of waste generation. The lack of analysis of the current system makes it difficult for the authorities to implement improvements.

The overall inefficiency and resource intensity of waste management systems relies on only manually operated and lack intelligent and automated support to improve overall efficiencies, sustainability, and public health. Therefore, the required elements for a modernized waste management system include smart technologies, real-time monitoring, and automated waste segregation.

IV. PROPOSED SYSTEM

To help facilitate the accurate identification of waste as it is being deposited into a bin, the Waste Segregation Monitoring System uses either infrared or ultrasonic sensors. When a sensor detects that waste has been deposited into a bin, an Arduino microcontroller will automatically begin the process of segregating the waste. The Waste Segregation Monitoring System will also have an inductive proximity sensor to identify silver and/or other non-ferrous metallic waste items, and an automatic mechanism will divert any waste item identified as metallic into a separate compartment.

For non-metallic waste items, the Waste Segregation Monitoring System will use a moisture sensor to classify waste into two categories: wet and dry. This classification process will enable effective segregation of non-metallic waste by categorizing each waste item based on moisture content.

As a means of improving automation within the Waste Segregation Monitoring System, it uses an automatic bin allocation and gate control mechanism, which will enable the microcontroller to actuate a motorised mechanism to position the correct bin and control the opening of the gate to ensure that all waste is disposed of in the appropriate compartment without any manual intervention.

To help avoid overflowing bins, ultrasonic sensors continuously monitor the level of waste in each bin.

The measurement of the bin's fill level, as well as real-time data on the fill level, is communicated to an IoT-enabled cloud platform. The cloud solutions for storing and analyzing data include platforms like ThingSpeak. When a bin is full, municipal authorities will automatically receive a notification, allowing timely collection of waste.

The proposed system will also utilize a waste compaction mechanism that will activate when the bin reaches approximately full capacity. This compaction mechanism will increase the bin's ability to hold waste, enabling more efficient storage of waste in a bin.

An automatic lid control system incorporates a rain sensor to allow for a lid to close when it rains, thereby preventing water from entering the bin and keeping it clean and hygienic.
This approach combines all required functions (sensing, processing, actuation, and communication) into one integrated framework that minimizes the need for human intervention, improves the accuracy of the segregation of waste into separate bins, and eliminates the potential for bins to overflow. In addition, this type of system will help keep the environment clean and sustainable.

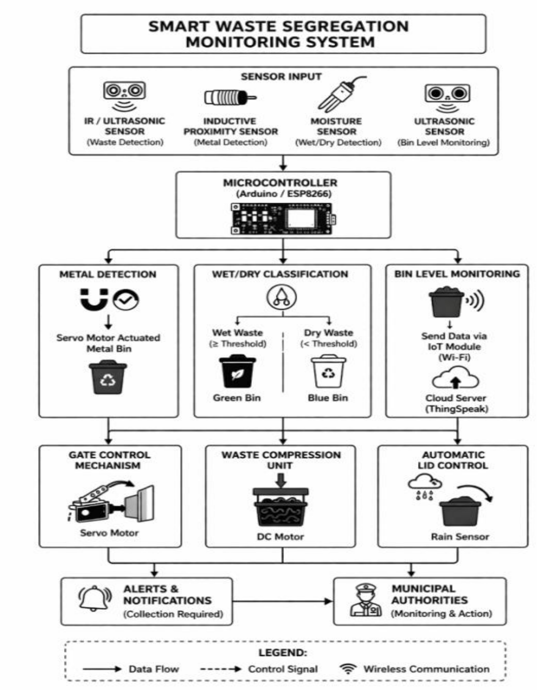

Fig 1: Block Diagram

We believe that through the use of smart waste segregation, automation of this process, and real-time monitoring systems combined, we will create a scalable and effective way to handle the various forms of waste produced in our cities today. This proposal also aligns with global efforts to implement smart cities as well as providing a basis for improving the methods employed by urban local governments when managing their waste.

V. METHODOLOGIES

1. Waste Detection: The system detects waste through an infrared or ultrasonic sensor which activates when waste is thrown into the bin. The sensor sends a signal to the microcontroller to initiate the segregation process.

2. Metal Identification: An inductive proximity sensor is used to detect metallic waste. The system responds to metal detection by activating the controller which uses a servo motor to move the metal waste into the designated metal bin.

3. Wet and Dry Classification: The waste is measured for moisture content by sensing the amount of water present in it.

4. Bin Allocation and Gate Control: The microcontroller determines the appropriate bin based on waste type.

5. Bin Level Monitoring: The ultrasonic sensors continuously monitor the fill level of the respective bin. When the threshold is met, the information is sent to a cloud platform through an IoT module.

6. Alert and Notification System: Notifications are generated to inform authorities for timely waste collection. Real-time monitoring improves efficiency and reduces overflow issues.

7. Waste Compression Mechanism: A motor-driven compression system reduces the volume of waste. This increases the storage capacity of the bin.

8. Automatic Lid Control: A rain sensor detects rainfall conditions. The lid closes automatically during rain and reopens afterwards.

9. Integration system operations: All modules work together in a coordinated manner. The system ensures efficient, automated, and smart waste management.

6. SYSTEM DESIGN

The design of this system uses structured and modular methods to integrate all four components (sensors, processes, actors and communicate) within the overall architecture of the Waste Segregation Monitoring System. The key goals of this system are automatic waste segregation, efficient monitoring, and real-time communications for Smart Waste Management applications.

The overall architecture of the system is divided into four distinct layers (Sensor, Processor, Actor, and Communication) that operate in effectively to provide an efficient and coordinated operation of the system.

A. SYSTEM LAYERS

i. Sensing Layer
The component that detects and assesses the attributes of trash is known as the sensing layer. Infrared(IR) or ultrasonic sensors are employed to sense the presence of trash once it is discarded into the bin. Inductive proximity sensors are used to classify the trash by identifying metallic materials, such as aluminum cans and aluminum foil. For non-metallic trash, a moisture sensor will be used to determine the moisture content (wet/dry), thus classifying it by material type. Ultrasonic sensors are also utilized to monitor the amount of trash within the bin. Rain sensors can be included to detect environmental conditions in order to help regulate how the lid operates when it is raining.

ii. Processing Layer
The Microcontroller functions as the 'central control unit' of the entire system. It will receive data from all the sensors, processing it via an established algorithm, to allow the microcontroller to determine the type of waste and to respond accordingly. It will also manage the interaction between the modules of the system to ensure that all components (i.e., sensing, actuation, and communication) operate in sync with one another.

iii. Actuation Layer
The actuation layer performs the functions of the processing layer physically. This layer uses servo motors to control the opening and closing of gates/flaps that direct the waste to the correct compartment (wet, dry or metal).The actuation layer also uses a DC motor driven compaction mechanism to compress the waste when the bin reaches a certain level (thereby increasing the amount of waste that can be stored and preventing excess waste from overflowing). Finally, the automated lid control system is also part of the actuation layer, which automatically opens or closes the lid according to the sensors detecting waste or the rain, improving hygiene and protection of the waste from outside elements.

iv. Communications Layer
The communications layer provides a means for transferring data back and forth between the system and the monitoring platform in "real time." Communication is accomplished by sending data (bin fill levels, etc.) through the internet using an "internet of things" (IoT) module (wifi, gsm, etc) from the bin to a cloud server that stores this information for future reference. This enables monitoring authorities to observe how much waste is in each bin remotely and to plan their collection schedules around these observations to be more efficient when collecting waste.

v. Power Control and System Dependability
The design of the unit includes a highly effective power management system to guarantee a dependable product. The components are powered only when there is a demand for them to deliver lower energy use. The modular nature of the system improves reliability and allows for ease of maintenance, scalability and future upgrades such as GPS capabilities and sophisticated data analysis.

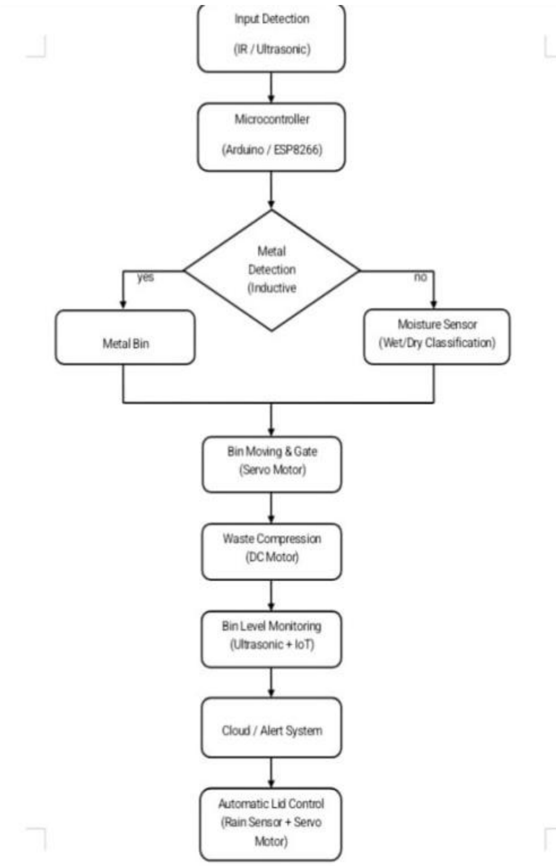

Fig 2: Flow Chart

B. ALGORITHM DESCRIPTION

The proposed Waste Segregation Monitoring System follows a structured algorithm to automate the processes of waste detection, classification, monitoring, and management. The algorithm integrates multiple sensors and actuators controlled by a microcontroller to ensure efficient and accurate operation.

The process begins with system initialization, where the microcontroller configures all connected sensors and actuators. The infrared or ultrasonic sensor continuously monitors the input section of the bin to detect the presence of waste. Once waste is detected, the system triggers the classification process.

The first stage of classification involves metal detection using an inductive proximity sensor. If the waste is identified as metallic, the microcontroller activates a servo motor to direct the waste into the designated metal bin. If no metal is detected, the system proceeds to the next stage, which involves moisture-based classification.

In stage two, the waste's moisture is measured and based on a predetermined threshold value, the waste is classified as either wet or dry. When the waste is dry, it goes to the dry bin and when wet, it goes to the wet bin using suitable actuation methods. Two-level classification improves accuracy of segregation and reduces contamination.

After classification, ultrasonic sensors continuously monitor the fill level of the bins. The ultrasonic sensors measure the distance from the sensor to the surface of the waste to calculate the fill level for each bin. Once the fill level reaches a predetermined threshold value, the system generates an alert and sends that information to the cloud platform, allowing authorities to take appropriate action related to waste collections.

Once the bin is nearly full, the waste compression mechanism is activated to compress waste that has already accumulated in the bin. By compressing the waste that has already been gathered, the effective storage capacity of each waste bin is increased which will reduce the number of times it is necessary to collect waste.

An automatic lid control system has been integrated into this system based on environmental factors (like rain sensors). When rainfall is detected the microcontroller received a signal and the lid is closed so that no water enters the bin. When it stops raining the lid is opened automatically.

Finally, this system provides real-time data (i.e., bins status and alerts) to an IoT platform for monitoring purposes and analysis. This entire operations cycle will operate in real time with enhanced productivity and reduced human interaction throughout the waste management process.

C. MATHEMATICAL MODELING

i. Waste Detection Models

Waste detection models rely on either an infrared or ultrasonic sensor output to determine whether waste is present or absent in the area being monitored using a detection function defined as;

$$D(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & S_{ir} \geq S_{th} \\ 0, & S_{ir} < S_{th} \end{cases}$$

Where S_{ir} = Output signal from the infrared or ultrasonic sensor, and S^{th} = Predefined threshold value. If D(t) = 1, it indicates that there is waste present at the given time point.

ii. **Waste Classification Model**

The classification process is carried out in two stages: metal detection and moisture-based classification.

1) Metal Detection

$$C_{metal} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if metallic waste is detected} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

2) Moisture-Based Classification

$$C_{wet} = \begin{cases} 1, & M > M_t \\ 0, & M \leq M_t \end{cases}$$

$$C_{dry} = 1 - C_{wet}$$

Where M denotes the measured moisture content M_t is the threshold value used for classification.

iii. Bin Level Estimation Model

The fill level of the bin is calculated using the ultrasonic sensor as:

$$L = \frac{H-d}{H}$$

Where H is the total height of the bin and d is the measured distance from the sensor to the waste surface. The value of L lies between 0 and 1.

iv. Threshold Alert Model

An alert is generated when the bin reaches a predefined threshold level:

$$Alert = \begin{cases} 1, & L \geq T \\ 0, & L < T \end{cases}$$

where T represents the threshold fill level.

v. Waste Compression Model

The compression mechanism reduces the volume of waste inside the bin. This can be modeled as:

$$V_f = \frac{V_i}{k}$$

where V_i is the initial volume, V_f is the compressed volume, and k is the compression ratio.

vi. System Efficiency Model

The efficiency of the waste segregation system is evaluated as:

$$\eta = \frac{N_c}{N_t} \times 100$$

where N_c is the number of correctly classified waste items and N_t is the total number of waste items processed.

vii. **Data Transmission Model**

The reliability of data communication to the cloud platform is given by:

$$Accuracy = \frac{D_r}{D_s}$$

Where D_s is the amount of data sent and D_r is the amount of data successfully received.

D. EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS

An Arduino microcontroller with infrared, inductive proximity, moisture, ultrasonic, and rain sensors was the basis for implementing the system prototype. The prototype's waste redirection capability utilized servo motors, while the wastes' compression mechanism was implemented with a DC motor. The prototype was connected to an IoT (Internet of Things) platform to provide real-time data monitoring.

To test the performance of the classification system prototype, a series of test samples containing metals (cans), wet (organic) waste, and dry (paper and plastics) waste were created. In total, each of the metal and wet category samples contained three to four samples of the waste types being evaluated.

i. Waste Classification Accuracy

The classification accuracy of the system was evaluated by testing a total of N_t=60 waste samples.

Table I: Waste Classification Performance

Waste Type	Total Samples	Correctly Classified	Accuracy (%)
Metal	20	19	95%
Wet	20	18	90%
Dry	20	17	85%
Overall	60	54	90%

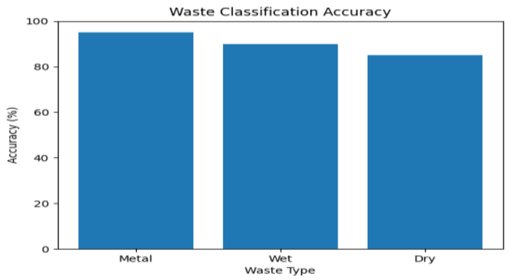

Fig 3: Waste Classification Accuracy

The results indicate that the system achieves an overall classification accuracy of approximately 90%. tMetal detection shows the highest accuracy due to the reliability of the inductive proximity sensor, while slight variations in moisture levels affect wet and dry classification.

ii. Bin Level Monitoring Performance

The ultrasonic sensor was tested for accuracy in measuring bin fill levels. The error between actual and measured levels was calculated.

$$Error(\%) = \frac{|L_{actual} - L_{measured}|}{L_{actual}} \times 100$$

The average error observed during testing was found to be less than 5%, indicating reliable performance in real-time monitoring.

iii. Response Time Analysis

The system response time was measured from the moment waste is detected to the completion of classification and bin allocation.

Table II: Response Time

Operation Stage	Time (seconds)
Waste Detection	0.5
Metal Detection	0.7
Moisture Classification	1.0
Actuation (Servo Motion)	1.5
Total Response Time	3.7 sec

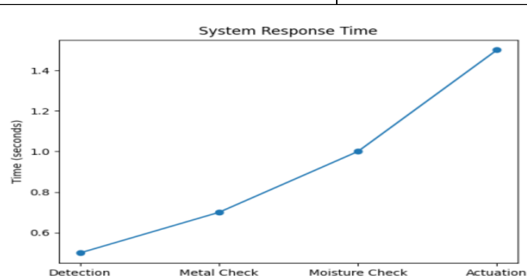

Fig 4: System Response Time Analysis

iv. Waste Compression Efficiency

The compression mechanism was evaluated by comparing the volume of waste before and after compression.

Table III: Waste Compression Efficiency

Parameter	Value
Initial Volume (Vi)	100%
Compressed Volume (Vf)	65%
Volume Reduction	35%

The results show that the compression system effectively reduces waste volume by approximately 35%, increasing bin capacity.

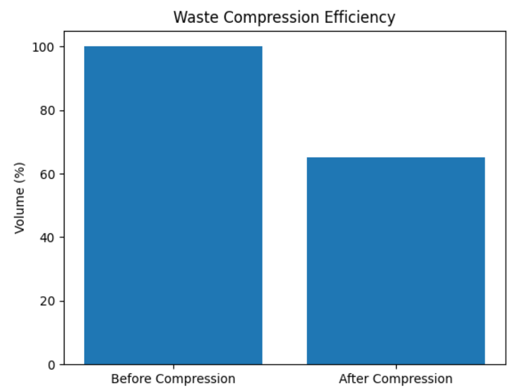

Fig 5: Waste Compression Efficiency

v. IoT Data Transmission Performance

The reliability of data transmission to the cloud platform was evaluated based on successful data delivery.

Based upon the experimental findings, the results indicate that the proposed approach provides good efficiency and reliability with accurately separating garbage. Also, using many types of sensors improves the performance of classification, and using IoT connectivity allows for real-time monitoring so waste can be collected on time. There were a few small inaccuracies when classifying based on moisture due to the different types of waste overall; however, the system is performing sufficiently for use in practice.

VII. RESULTS

A Waste Segregation Monitoring System was successfully designed and deployed to assess its real-time effectiveness for waste management applications. The system underwent performance testing with different types of waste to examine its performance for waste detection, waste classification, waste monitoring, and waste automation.

The infrared/ultrasonic sensor provided reliable detection of inserted waste with very little time lag, allowing for an immediate start of the segregation process. In addition to identifying the presence of metallic waste, the inductive proximity sensor was also able to detect the presence of moisture in waste, allowing for an accurate differentiation between wet and dry waste. The overall segregation performance accuracy was shown to be high and reduced the amount of manual intervention needed significantly.

The bin level monitoring system, which used ultrasonics to measure fill levels, considered that when the level reached its pre established threshold, notifications were sent accurately to the cloud platform, allowing for timely collection of waste that would otherwise cause overflow conditions and additional hygiene issues in the monitored area.

Waste compression technology reduces waste volume, increases bin capacity, and decreases frequency of collection. The automatic lid control system effectively responded to rainfall to keep the waste dry and preserve its quality.

Using Internet of Things (IoT), the entire waste management process can be monitored continuously and transferred data for efficient decision making. The new system showed an improvement in operational efficiencies, less dependence on labor, and a more efficient use of resources. Experimental results confirm that the new system enhances waste segregation accuracy, collection efficiency and environmental sustainability.

VIII. FUTURE SCOPE

1. Advanced Waste Classification: Integration of machine learning and image processing techniques to classify waste into multiple categories such as plastic, glass, paper, and hazardous materials.
2. Cloud and Big Data Integration: Use of cloud platforms for storing large volumes of data and performing predictive analysis on waste generation patterns with the help of previous data.
3. GPS and Route Optimization: Incorporation of GPS modules to track bin locations and optimize waste collection routes, reducing fuel consumption and operational costs.
4. Solar Power Integration: Implementation of solar panels to power the system, making it energy-efficient and suitable for outdoor environments.
5. Automatic Sanitization System: Addition of self-cleaning and sanitization features to maintain hygiene and reduce health risks.
6. Odor Control Mechanism: Integration of odor detection and neutralization systems to improve environmental conditions around bins.
7. Scalability and Deployment: Expansion of the system for use in residential areas, commercial complexes, and public places.
8. AI-Based Predictive Maintenance: Use of AI to predict system failures and schedule maintenance in advance to ensure uninterrupted operation.

Other improvements, such as mobile apps, real-time analytics, and sanitization automation, not only make the system more efficient but also encourage people to maintain better hygiene. The future scope of this project lies in transforming it into a fully intelligent, scalable, and sustainable waste management solution for next-generation smart cities.

IX. CONCLUSION

The proposed Smart Waste Management System is an effective and efficient solution for the improvement of waste management in ULBs. The proposed system ensures the accurate and efficient management of various types of waste, such as wet, dry, and metal, through the integration of waste detection and segregation systems.

The inclusion of bin monitoring systems ensures the efficient management of the waste collection process. This ensures the timely collection of waste and prevents the occurrence of overflow conditions. This, in turn, ensures a cleaner and healthier urban living experience.

The proposed Smart Waste Management System also ensures the reduction of manual labor and operational costs. In addition, the proposed system ensures the reduction of environmental impact and promotes the recycling of waste materials. This ensures the efficient and sustainable management of resources.

The scalability of the system also provides the opportunity to integrate it with other smart city infrastructures such as traffic management systems, water supply systems, and energy management systems. Therefore, the integration of the system with other systems would also make it a viable option for addressing the contemporary issues.

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