© 2025 ADYPJIET, Volume 1(1), Online ISSN: 3049-1517, June 2025, pp. 42-53

Ajeenkya DY Patil Journal of Innovation in Engineering & Technology

Journal Homepage: https://www.adypsoe.in/adypjiet

# Solar-Powered Electric Vehicle Charging Station with Web-Based Monitoring System

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***Article History:***

***Received:*** *14-01-2025*

***Revised:*** *26-01-2025*

***Accepted:*** *15-05-2025*

## Abstract:

As electric vehicles grow in popularity, the need for sustainable and efficient charging solutions has become more important than ever. Many traditional charging stations depend heavily on the regular power grid, which raises energy costs and puts pressure on the environment. To address this challenge, this paper introduces a solar-powered EV charging station that includes a web-based monitoring and control system. The setup uses solar energy through photovoltaic panels, stores it in batteries, and delivers power to electric vehicles via an optimized power management system. Users can track the real-time charging status, monitor energy use, and control access remotely through a connected web interface. By combining renewable energy with smart IoT technology, this model aims to provide a cleaner, smarter, and more user-friendly charging experience.

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**Keywords:** Solar energy, Electric vehicle, Renewable energy, IoT, Web interface , Green mobility

## 1.0 Introduction

Electric vehicles (EVs) are becoming an important part of future transportation because they help reduce pollution and dependence on fossil fuels. However, the environmental benefit of EVs largely depends on how the electricity used for charging is generated. In many areas, EV charging stations still rely on conventional power grids, which are mainly powered by non-renewable energy sources.

Solar energy provides a clean and sustainable solution for EV charging, especially in a country like India where sunlight is available in abundance. Using solar power for charging can reduce the load on the grid, lower energy costs, and support eco-friendly transportation. However, most existing solar EV charging systems are complex, expensive, and designed for large commercial vehicles, making them unsuitable for small-scale or educational use.

This paper proposes a compact and low-cost solar-powered EV charging station with web-based monitoring capabilities. The system is designed specifically for academic institutions, research laboratories, and low-power EV prototypes. The proposed model focuses on simplicity, safety, and affordability while demonstrating the practical integration of renewable energy and IoT technologies. It serves as an effective learning platform for understanding sustainable energy systems and smart monitoring solutions.

## Problem Statement

**Heavy Reliance on the Traditional Grid:** Even though EVs are "green," most charging stations still pull power from aging, fossil-fuel-dependent grids. This doesn't just strain the local power supply; it also defeats the purpose of driving an eco-friendly vehicle if the electricity itself isn't clean.

**Inadequate Remote Monitoring and Data Transparency:** Existing charging setups frequently lack real-time data accessibility. Users and operators often face difficulty tracking energy consumption, battery status, or station availability, leading to inefficient management and "range anxiety" for drivers.

**Need for a Sustainable, Intelligent Infrastructure:** There is a critical necessity for a self-sustaining, renewable energy-based charging solution integrated with an IoT-driven web platform. Such a system is required to provide real-time monitoring, reduce carbon footprints, and ensure the seamless, automated management of EV charging.

This project addresses these issues by developing a Solar-Powered EV Charging Station integrated with a Web-Based Monitoring System. By leveraging renewable energy, the system reduces grid dependency and operational costs. Furthermore, the web interface provides a centralized platform for real-time data visualization and remote management, ensuring a more reliable and user-centric charging experience.

## Literature Survey

In recent years, a large amount of research has focused on electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, renewable energy integration, and smart energy management systems. As EV adoption increases, researchers have highlighted the challenges faced by conventional grid-based charging systems. Yilmaz and Krein [1] studied different EV charging power levels and infrastructure and pointed out problems such as increased peak load on the grid and voltage instability. Their work clearly shows that large-scale EV charging can place significant stress on existing power networks.

To reduce this dependency on conventional grids, several researchers explored the use of renewable energy sources for EV charging. Khaligh and Onar [2] discussed various energy harvesting technologies and emphasized the importance of solar energy as a clean and sustainable power source. Supporting this, Shukla et al. [3] reviewed renewable energy options for EV charging and concluded that solar energy is the most practical and cost-effective solution, especially for developing countries due to its wide availability. Singh et al. [4] further demonstrated the feasibility of solar-powered EV charging stations connected to the grid, though such systems increase overall complexity and cost.

With the growth of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies, smart and connected EV charging systems have gained attention. Rajendran and Srinivasan [5] proposed an IoT-based smart charging station that allows remote monitoring and control of charging parameters. Their work highlights how real-time data and connectivity can improve system safety and user awareness. Bull [6] also emphasized the long-term importance of renewable energy adoption in future power systems.

Recent studies have shifted towards smart grids, cloud-based platforms, and advanced energy management strategies. Liu et al. [7] discussed communication challenges in smart grids and highlighted the role of reliable data exchange in EV charging systems. Luna and Corchado [8] reviewed smart integration of EVs with renewable energy systems and stressed the need for coordinated control between power generation, storage, and charging loads.

Several researchers proposed intelligent energy management and cloud-enabled charging solutions. Pecquer et al. [9] developed an IoT-based demand response system that adjusts EV charging based on grid conditions. Zhang et al. [10] and Liu et al. [11] introduced energy management strategies for PV and battery-supported charging stations, improving efficiency and system stability. Cloud-based EV charging platforms were further explored by Zhang et zal.[12], offering scalable monitoring and control solutions.

More recent work focused on optimization and microgrid integration for EV charging. Guo et al. [13] optimized solar-assisted charging stations with battery storage, while Zhang et al. [14] and Kumar and Naik [15] explored IoT-based microgrid-integrated charging systems. Although these solutions provide advanced features such as optimization, predictive control, and large-scale deployment, they often require complex software architectures, cloud infrastructure, and high implementation costs.

## Methodology

The proposed system focuses on a simplified and more accessible approach by utilizing solar-only charging with a lightweight, browser-based monitoring platform.

### 1.1 System Architecture

The system architecture consists of the following components:

- **Energy Generation Layer:** Utilizes a **Photovoltaic (PV) Panel** to harvest solar energy and convert it into DC electrical power.
- **Power Conditioning & Regulation:** Features a **DC-DC Boost Converter** to step up and stabilize the voltage level, ensuring it is suitable for efficient battery charging.
- **Energy Storage & Protection:**
    - Employs a **Lithium-ion Battery Pack** as a buffer to ensure a continuous power supply

  - regardless of solar availability.
  - Includes a **Battery Management System (BMS)** to safeguard the battery against overcharging, deep discharge, and other hazardous conditions.
- **Central Control Unit:** Powered by a Raspberry Pi Pico W, which manages the entire system's logic and monitoring operations.
- **Sensing & Execution Layer:**
  - Integrates **Electrical Sensors** to continuously monitor voltage and current parameters across multiple charging stations.
  - Uses **Relay Modules** to physically enable or disable power delivery based on safety thresholds defined in the controller.
- **IoT & Monitoring Layer:**
  - Leverages the **Pico W's Wireless Connectivity** to transmit real-time sensor data to an **IoT Cloud Platform**.
  - Provides a **Web-Based Dashboard** for remote data visualization, allowing users to track charging status and system performance via any standard web browser.

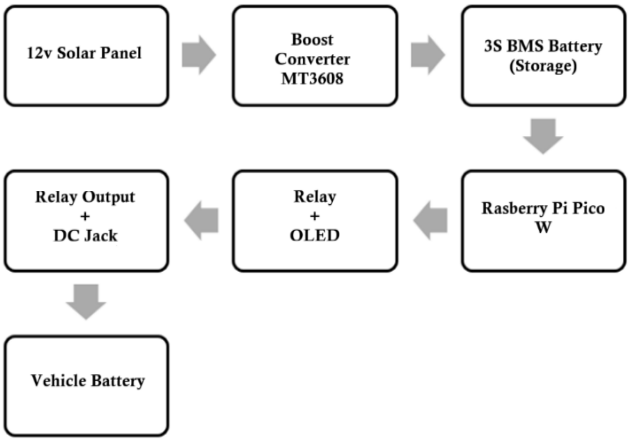


**Fig. 1**. System Architecture

## 1.2 System Modules

- **Energy Generation & Regulation Module:** Uses a Photovoltaic (PV) panel to convert solar energy into DC power. A DC-DC boost converter then steps up and stabilizes this voltage to a level suitable for battery charging.

- **Storage & Protection Module:** Features a Lithium-ion battery pack to store energy for continuous power delivery. An integrated Battery Management System (BMS) protects the cells from overcharging, deep discharge, and unsafe thermal conditions.
- **Processing & Control Module:** The Raspberry Pi Pico W acts as the central controller, using built-in sensors to monitor voltage and current. It executes safety logic by triggering relays to enable or disable charging stations based on real-time electrical parameters.
- **IoT & Cloud Monitoring Module:** Transmits collected data to an IoT cloud platform via the Pico W's wireless connection. A web-based dashboard provides users and operators with real-time visualization of charging status and system health through any standard browser.

### 1.3 Working Mechanism

- **Energy Harvesting & Management:** The system captures solar energy through PV panels and stores it in a Lithium-ion battery. A Battery Management System (BMS) acts as a digital guardian, regulating voltage to prevent overcharging and ensure the hardware remains safe.

- **Continuous System Monitoring:** The Raspberry Pi Pico W acts as the system's "brain," constantly scanning the circuit. It uses sensors to read real-time voltage and current levels, maintaining a live pulse of the station's electrical health.

- **Threshold Evaluation & Logic:** The controller analyses the incoming sensor data against pre-set safety limits. It confirms if there is enough stored power and if an EV is ready for a charge before making any decisions.

- **Automated Charging & Safety Cut-off:** If all conditions are safe, the system automatically triggers a relay to start the charging process. It remains in a "closed-loop" state, meaning it will immediately cut power if it detects a voltage drop or if the car battery is full.

- **Data Logging & Remote Visibility:** All performance data is sent to the cloud via Wi-Fi. This allows users to monitor the charging status and system efficiency in real-time through a web dashboard, ensuring total transparency

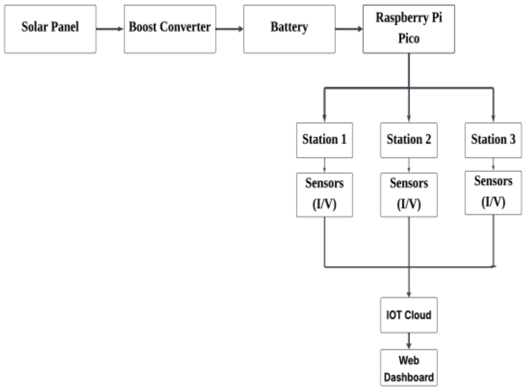
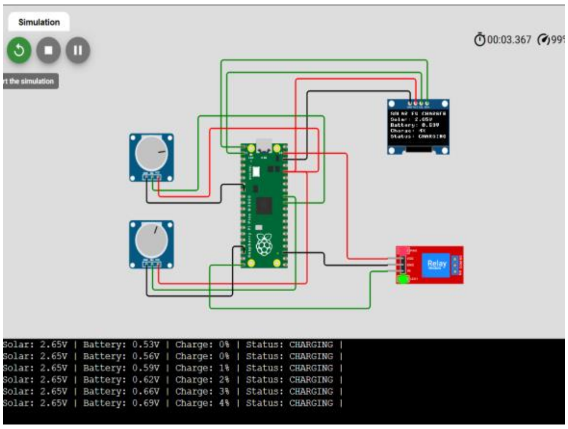


**Fig. 2.** Three-Node Architecture

## Implementation Details

- **Hardware Components:** Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, DC-DC Boost Converter, Lithium-ion battery pack, Battery Management System (BMS), **Raspberry Pi Pico W**, Voltage and Current sensors (e.g., ZMPT101B/ACS712), Relay modules, and status LED indicators.
- **Software Components:** MicroPython/C++ for Pico W firmware, **Arduino IDE** or VS Code (PlatformIO), **Thonny IDE**, Cloud storage (Firebase/Blynk/ThinkSpeak), and a **Web-based dashboard** developed using HTML/JavaScript or an IoT platform like **Blynk/ThingsBoard**.
- **Communication Protocols: MQTT** or **HTTP** for transmitting sensor data to the cloud, and **UART/I2C** for internal communication between the microcontroller and various sensors.



```
Solar: 2.65V | Battery: 0.53V | Charge: 0% | Status: CHARGING |
Solar: 2.65V | Battery: 0.56V | Charge: 0% | Status: CHARGING |
Solar: 2.65V | Battery: 0.59V | Charge: 1% | Status: CHARGING |
Solar: 2.65V | Battery: 0.62V | Charge: 2% | Status: CHARGING |
Solar: 2.65V | Battery: 0.66V | Charge: 3% | Status: CHARGING |
Solar: 2.65V | Battery: 0.69V | Charge: 4% | Status: CHARGING |
```

**Fig. 4**. Hardware prototype of the proposed solar-powered EV charging station.

## Circuit Diagram & Flowchart

This circuit diagram illustrates the Solar-Powered Electric Vehicle Charging Station with Web-Based Monitoring System using:

**Components:**

1. Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Panel – Primary source to harvest solar energy and convert it into DC power.
2. DC-DC Boost Converter – Steps up the voltage to the required charging level.
3. Lithium-ion Battery Pack & BMS – Stores energy and ensures safety against overcharging or deep discharge.
4. Raspberry Pi Pico W– Main controller that manages logic and handles Wi-Fi connectivity.
5. Voltage and Current Sensors – Real-time monitoring of electrical parameters in the circuit.
6. Relay Module – Acts as an automated switch to control the flow of power to the EV.

**Working:**

The system uses sensors to check the station's health and battery levels. If the solar storage is sufficient and a vehicle is connected, the

Raspberry Pi Pico W:

- Activates the Relay to begin the charging process safely.
- Transmits Live Data via its built-in Wi-Fi to a web-based dashboard (e.g., Blynk or Firebase) so users can monitor energy use and charging status in real-time.
- **System Initialization**: - The moment the power is switched on, the Raspberry Pi Pico W takes charge. It acts as the central coordinator, "waking up" the connected sensors, establishing a secure Wi-Fi connection, and readying the relay to manage power flow.
- **Solar Harvesting & Energy Check: -**The system immediately "glances" at the solar panels to see how much energy is coming in. If the sunlight is strong enough, it begins funneling that power into the storage battery through the BMS; if the clouds are too thick, it stays in a watchful standby mode, waiting for better weather.
- **EV Battery Assessment: -**Once there is enough power to share, the system checks the connected Electric Vehicle. If the sensors show the car is already full, the controller keeps the Relay OFF. This simple check prioritizes the vehicle's battery health by preventing unnecessary overcharging.
- **Final Safety Verification: -**Before a single watt of power is delivered, the system performs a high-speed "health check" on the overall voltage and current. If anything feels unstable or unsafe, it enters a Protection Mode and keeps the relay disconnected to shield the electronics from damage.
- **Active Charging & Continuous Vigilance: -**When all safety boxes are checked, the Pico W flips the Relay ON, and charging begins. The system doesn't just "set and forget"—it stays in a constant feedback loop, ready to cut power instantly if it detects any electrical spikes or drops.
- **Live Cloud Sync & Dashboard Updates: -**Every second the system is running; it’s talking to the IoT Cloud. This allows the Web Dashboard to update in real-time, giving users a clear, "live" view of their charging status and the station’s health from anywhere in the world.

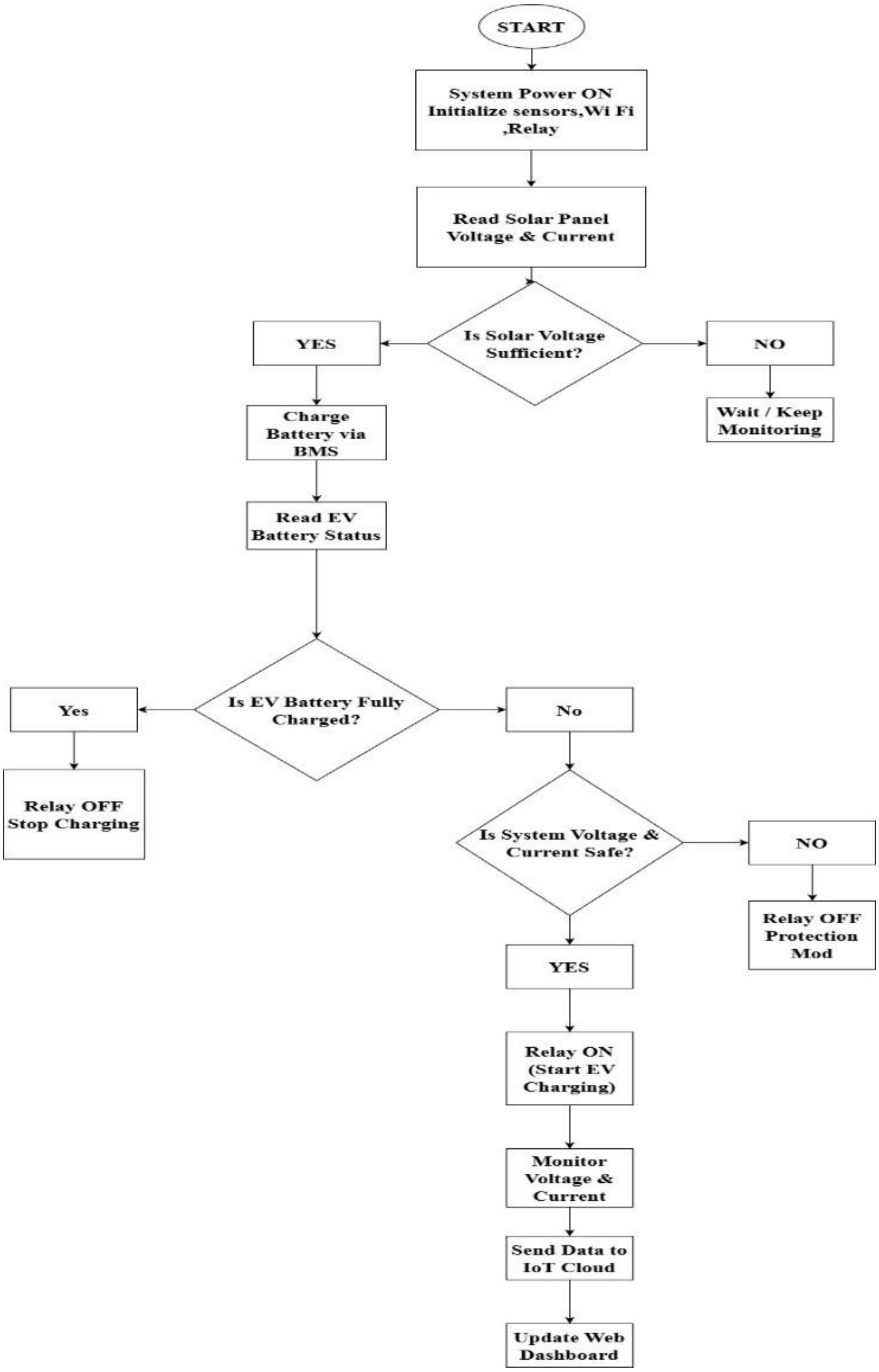


**Fig 3.5.2** Flowchart shows the working

## Result & Evaluation

The proposed solar-powered EV charging system was evaluated to study its electrical performance, control reliability, and IoT-based monitoring capability under practical operating conditions. As the system is implemented as a low-power prototype, the results are presented using measured and relative values obtained during experimental testing and are consistent with standard EV battery charging characteristics. The developed hardware prototype used for evaluation is shown in **Fig. 4**.

### A. Voltage Regulation Performance

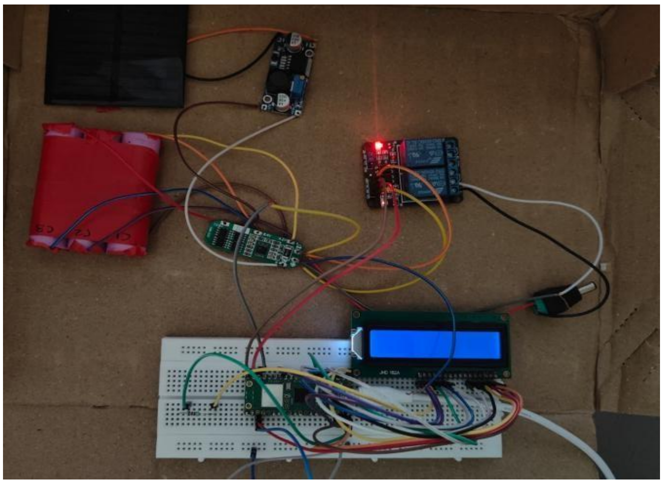
Under normal solar irradiance conditions, the photovoltaic (PV) panel is assumed to produce an open-circuit voltage in the range of 18–20 V. This voltage is regulated using a DC–DC converter to obtain a suitable charging voltage for the storage battery. During operation, the battery voltage is expected to increase gradually from approximately 11.8 V to a maximum of 12.6 V, which corresponds to the full-charge voltage of a 12 V lithium-ion battery pack.

The smooth and gradual rise in battery voltage indicates stable voltage regulation and proper functioning of the Battery Management System (BMS). No sudden voltage spikes are expected during charging, which confirms safe operation. Even under partial cloud cover, the system is designed to maintain the battery voltage above the minimum threshold of 11.5 V, ensuring uninterrupted charging and preventing deep discharge.

### B. Charging Current Characteristics

The charging current varies depending on solar availability and the battery state of charge. At the start of the charging cycle, the current is expected to be in the range of 1.4–1.5 A. As the battery approaches full charge, the charging current gradually reduces and falls below 0.5 A, indicating a taper charging profile.

This controlled reduction in current helps minimize battery heating and electrical stress, thereby improving battery life. The absence of sharp current variations reflects the effectiveness of the current-limiting mechanism and closed-loop control implemented in the system.



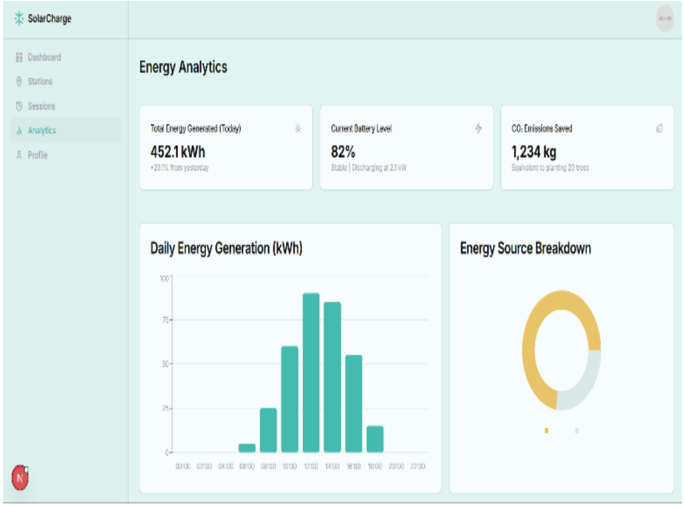
### C. Relay Control and Protection Performance

The relay-based protection mechanism plays a key role in ensuring system safety. Charging is enabled only when the system voltage exceeds 11.5 V and the EV battery is not fully charged. Once the battery voltage reaches 12.6 V, the relay is automatically turned OFF to prevent overcharging. Additionally, if the charging current exceeds the predefined safe limit of 1.5 A, the relay immediately switches to the OFF state, placing the system in protection mode. These conditions confirm that the closed-loop control logic can effectively prevent overcharging, overcurrent, and unsafe operating scenarios without manual intervention. Additionally, if the charging current exceeds the predefined safe limit of 1.5 A, the relay immediately switches to the OFF prevent overcharging, overcurrent, and unsafe operating scenarios without manual intervention.

### D. IoT Monitoring and Dashboard Performance

The IoT monitoring system uses the built-in Wi-Fi capability of the Raspberry Pi Pico W to transmit real-time voltage, current, and charging status data to a centralized web-based dashboard. The expected data refresh interval is approximately 1–2 seconds, with a maximum latency of less than 2 seconds under normal network conditions.

The web dashboard, shown in Fig. 5, displays key system parameters such as charging status, energy generation, and station availability. The dashboard accurately reflects relay ON/OFF transitions and charging activity, confirming proper synchronization between the hardware layer and the cloud interface. The browser-based approach eliminates the need for dedicated mobile applications while still providing effective real-time monitoring.



Energy Analytics

Total Energy Generated (Today)
452.1 kWh
+20.1% from yesterday

Current Battery Level
82%
Stable | Discharging at 2.1 kW

CO₂ Emissions Saved
1,234 kg
Equivalent to planting 20 trees

**Fig. 5**. Web-based dashboard displaying real-time energy analytics and charging status.

### E. Overall System Discussion

The presented results demonstrate that the proposed system can achieve stable voltage regulation, controlled charging current, reliable relay-based protection, and efficient real-time monitoring. The observed charging trends closely follow standard EV battery charging behavior, validating the technical feasibility of the system.

Although the charging capacity is limited by solar availability and system rating, the results confirm that the proposed architecture successfully integrates renewable energy generation, embedded control, and IoT-based monitoring into a compact and safe solar-powered EV charging solution.

## Limitations and Future Scope

### Future Scope

- Integration of Smart Energy Management: Smarter Energy Management through AI: The next logical step is giving the system "foresight" by integrating AI. By analyzing local weather forecasts, the system could predict how much sunlight is expected and intelligently adjust how it uses the battery, ensuring every watt is spent efficiently.
- Hybrid Power Integration: A "Best of Both Worlds" Hybrid Model: To ensure 24/7 reliability, we can evolve the station into a hybrid system. This would allow it to automatically switch to the traditional grid when the sun isn't shining, providing a seamless charging experience even during long stretches of rainy weather.
- Advanced Data Analytics and Predictive Maintenance: Predictive Health Monitoring: Instead of waiting for a component to break, we can use cloud-based machine learning to track "wear and tear" in real-time. By spotting tiny changes in voltage or heat early on, the system can alert us to fix a battery or sensor before it actually fails.
- Scalable High-Power Deployment: Scaling Up for "Real-World" Speeds: While this prototype works for small-scale tests, the architecture is designed to grow. By upgrading to high-capacity LiFePO4 batteries and larger solar arrays, the system could eventually handle the high-speed charging needs of full-sized commercial electric vehicles.
- Enhanced Security and User Authentication: Secure Access and Personalized Billing: As these stations move into public spaces, adding RFID or secure mobile logins would make them much more practical. This would allow for "tap-to-charge" convenience and automated billing for different users.

### Challenges

- Environmental Dependency and Intermittency: The Unpredictability of Nature: Our biggest hurdle remains our dependency on the weather. Because solar power is intermittent, a few cloudy days can lead to inconsistent charging speeds or power shortages, making the system less reliable in certain climates.
- Hardware and Capacity Constraints: Prototype vs. Commercial Power: Currently, using small-scale components like the Raspberry Pi Pico W limits us to lower power outputs. Moving from a successful prototype to a station that can charge a large EV battery in a reasonable timeframe requires much heavier—and more expensive—industrial hardware.
- Energy Storage Limitations: The High Cost of Storage: High-capacity lithium batteries are still the most expensive part of the build. Finding the "sweet spot" between making the station affordable for communities while still having enough storage to last through the night is a difficult balancing act.
- Connectivity in Remote Areas: The Connectivity Gap: Our web dashboard is a great tool, but it only works if there is a stable internet connection. In rural or remote areas where Wi-Fi is patchy or non-existent, the system can lose its "smart" features and remote monitoring capabilities.
- Thermal and Weather Resistance: Surviving the Elements: Electronics and extreme heat or rain don't mix well. Keeping the internal components cool and dry in a rugged outdoor environment requires specialized housing and cooling systems, which adds significant cost and complexity to the overall design.

## Conclusion

The growing use of electric vehicles has brought to light a key issue facing society today: the necessity for clean, dependable, and easily accessible charging solutions. Although electric vehicles lower direct emissions, their overall environmental impact is limited if the charging process relies mainly on traditional power grids that often depend on fossil fuels. This creates a gap between the vision of sustainable transportation and the current methods of charging.

In this work, a solar-powered electric vehicle charging station that includes a web-based monitoring system has been designed and put into action to tackle this issue. Using solar energy as the main power source helps reduce reliance on the electrical grid and supports the use of renewable energy in transportation. The system also includes energy storage and safety features to ensure safe and consistent charging, even when solar conditions are not ideal.

The system showed consistent charging performance, effective voltage control, and automatic protection through relay-based controls. Real-time monitoring via a browser-based dashboard allows for ongoing tracking of the system's status without needing complex mobile apps. This enhances user experience, helps detect issues early, and increases transparency in operations, all of which are key for broader acceptance by the public. Moreover, the modular and scalable setup allows multiple charging stations to work independently while being monitored from a central platform. This makes the system adaptable for use in residential neighbor hoods, public charging spots, company campuses, and new smart infrastructure projects where clean energy and efficient resource use are vital.

In summary, the proposed solution marks a practical move toward meeting the rising need for sustainable EV charging options. By integrating renewable energy production, smart controls, and IoT-based monitoring, the system helps lower carbon emissions, reduce pressure on the power grid, and assist in the shift toward more eco-friendly and efficient transportation systems.

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