INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR INNOVATIVE RESEARCH IN MULTIDISCIPLINARY FIELD
ISSN(O): 2455-0620 [Impact Factor: 9.47]
Monthly, Peer-Reviewed, Refereed, Indexed Journal with IC Value : 86.87
Volume - 10, Issue - 9, September - 2024

DOIs:10.2015/IJIRMF/202409006 --:-- Research Paper / Article / Review

An Analytical Study on Green Technologies: Current Status and Challenges

Dr. Neena Hamid
Senior Assistant Acharya,
Faculty of Law & Forensic Sciences, Apex Professional University, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh
Email - drneena03@gmail.com

"The future will be green or not at all"
Bob Brown, the senator of the Australian Greens

Abstract: *Green technologies, including renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and waste management, are essential for addressing global environmental challenges like climate change and resource depletion. This paper explores the current status of these technologies, focusing on their potential to drive sustainable development and the barriers to their widespread adoption. Key challenges identified include high initial costs, technical limitations, infrastructure requirements, and socio-political resistance. The study also highlights the uneven adoption of green technologies, with developed nations advancing more rapidly due to stronger policy frameworks and technological capabilities, while developing countries struggle with financial and infrastructural constraints. Through a thorough review of existing literature and case studies, the research evaluates the effectiveness of policy measures and incentives in promoting green technology. The findings suggest that overcoming these challenges requires robust policy support, increased public awareness, and international cooperation. The study aims to contribute to the discourse on sustainability by offering strategic recommendations to enhance the adoption and impact of green technologies. This paper indicates how the concept of future green technologies is changing from mere new gadgets and solutions to a more sustainable way of living.*

Key Words: *Green technologies, sustainable development, renewable energy, policy frameworks, technical challenges, adoption barriers, environmental sustainability, international cooperation.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

The origins of green technologies can be traced back to the early environmental movements of the 1960s and 1970s, which emphasized the need for pollution control and resource conservation. Green technologies, also known as clean technologies or eco-friendly technologies, represent a suite of innovations designed to mitigate environmental impact, promote sustainability, and enhance resource efficiency. As the world grapples with the consequences of climate change, environmental degradation, and the depletion of natural resources, the adoption and development of green technologies have emerged as critical components of global strategies to foster sustainable development. The concept of green technologies encompasses a wide range of sectors and applications, from renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydroelectric power, to sustainable agriculture, waste management, and energy-efficient building designs. These technologies are not just technological innovations but are integral to a larger paradigm shift towards an economy that prioritizes ecological balance, social equity, and economic viability.

One of the most significant drivers of green technology development has been the growing recognition of the unsustainable nature of traditional industrial practices. The over-reliance on fossil fuels, deforestation, and pollution-intensive processes have led to significant environmental challenges, including global warming, loss of biodiversity, and water scarcity. Green technologies offer alternative solutions that reduce carbon footprints, conserve natural resources, and minimize waste.

However, despite their promise, the widespread adoption and implementation of green technologies face several challenges. Economic barriers, such as high initial costs and uncertain return on investment, often deter businesses and individuals from embracing these technologies. Additionally, technical challenges, including the intermittent nature of renewable energy sources and the need for advanced infrastructure, pose significant hurdles. There are also social and political barriers, such as resistance to change, lack of awareness, and insufficient policy support, that further complicate the adoption of green technologies.

In many parts of the world, particularly in developing countries, the challenge of balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability is acute. These countries face the dual challenge of addressing poverty and inequality while also mitigating environmental degradation. Green technologies offer a pathway to achieve sustainable development, but the transition requires comprehensive policy frameworks, financial incentives, and international cooperation to be effective. The current status of green technologies varies widely across different regions and sectors. Developed countries have made significant strides in adopting green technologies, driven by strong policy support, technological innovation, and public awareness. In contrast, developing countries are still in the nascent stages of green technology adoption, often hindered by financial constraints, a lack of technical expertise, and inadequate infrastructure.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Muhammad Zaid Qamar et al. (2020), The term technology usually refers to the application of various techniques, skills, methods, and processes for any and all practical purposes or to achieve certain objectives, such as scientific investigation or research. A technology that is environmentally friendly in its production, supply chain, or usage is referred to as Green Technology or Green Tech for short. Green tech is an umbrella term that continuously develops products, systems, or equipment that are less taxing to the natural environment and its resources, which limits and diminishes the negative effect of human exercise.[1]

Eduardo Jacob-Lopes (nd), Climate changes, environmental impact, and finite natural resources urged scientists to research and find innovative sustainable technical solutions. Despite the negative impact of human activities on the environment, a rise in global concern for climate change has led to the development of sustainable technologies. The crucial aim is to help solve some of the most significant problems that we face as a society through a shift towards more sustainable and renewable energy sources, besides better management of the wastes. IntechOpen has recognized the need to raise awareness and enable scientists to share their latest research in renewable energy and environmental technology. That led to the launch of the new Open Science Green Energy and Environmental Technology Journal that will cover the latest advancements in these research fields.2

Jinsong Wu & Vladimir Strezov (2023), Green technologies are not just a collection of isolated technologies. The world is experiencing a number of serious challenges, such as extreme climate changes, energy and resource depletions, global impacts of multiple diseases, extensive environmental pollution, serious food crises, which demand the need for various interdisciplinary green technologies. The future of sustainable development will depend on practical green solutions for extensive areas, which promote the development of green technologies. Green technologies will help create new relationships between humans, nature as well as the new world.3

Simanchal Dash (2022), Green technology develops and creates a pathway for the future's energy generations. With the rise of the earth's temperature day to day, depletion of energy, and global warming, it is inevitable to develop some methodology of green technology to save lives and property. Environmental protections are covered with green energy, which is the center for economic, social, and environmental areas. The fuels produced by different sources like oil, coal, and natural gases are trying to become an efficient engine for economic progress, but at the same time, they are harmful to the environment and also harm health, which confronts the global energy requirement. In every sector utilizing energy, from agriculture to the construction of houses, green technology has made its application for the sake of sustainable development without harming the environment. The rise of industrial growth bringing development of society that leads to problems with the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere making the water unfit for consumption as well as for the air used for breathing. Hence, green technology is an appropriate pathway toward the future's alternative technology.4

3. OBJECTIVES:

I. Assess the Current State of Green Technologies
II. Identify Key Challenges in the Adoption and Implementation of Green Technologies
III. Analyze the Impact of Green Technologies on Sustainable Development
IV. Investigate Policy Frameworks and Incentives Supporting Green Technologies

[1] Muhammad Zaid Qamar et al. (2020). *Green Technology and its Implications Worldwide*. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350443477_Green_Technology_and_its_Implications_Worldwide

[2] Eduardo Jacob-Lopes (nd). Green Energy and Environmental Technology. Retrieved from https://www.intechopen.com/journals/7

[3] Jinsong Wu & Vladimir Strezov (2023). Green Technologies and Sustainability. Retrieved from https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2949736123000015?via%3Dihub

[4] Simanchal Dash. Green Technology: A Pathway towards Future Alternative Technology. Research Journal of Science and Technology. (2022). Retrieved from: https://rjstonline.com/AbstractView.aspx?PID=2022-14-2-8

V.Provide Recommendations for Enhancing the Adoption and Efficacy of Green Technologies

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The paper aims to explore and scrutinize the major issues related to sustainable and inclusive growth in the context of green technologies. The research relies heavily on secondary sources for primary data, drawing from existing literature and online resources. This analytical study reviews pertinent literature to establish a foundation for the author's understanding and discussion of the subject matter. The paper gathers essential information, data, and descriptions from a wide range of sources, forming the basis for a comprehensive analysis. The final conclusion reflects the author's analytical abilities, providing valuable insights for stakeholders interested in green technologies and helping them to grasp the complexities and challenges of the field in a thorough manner.

Types of Green Technologies: Several types of green technologies are pivotal for future sustainability:

I. Renewable Energy Technologies: Solar, wind, hydropower, and geothermal energy systems provide clean and sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels, significantly reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
II. Energy Efficiency Technologies: Innovations such as LED lighting, smart grids, and energy-efficient appliances reduce energy consumption and costs while maintaining or improving service levels.
III. Green Buildings: Sustainable construction practices, such as the use of eco-friendly materials, green roofs, and energy-efficient designs, reduce energy consumption and environmental impact.
IV. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems: Technologies such as precision farming, organic farming, and aquaponics help reduce the environmental footprint of food production and ensure food security.
V. Waste Management and Recycling: Waste-to-energy systems, recycling technologies, and biodegradable materials help minimize waste and promote a circular economy.
VI. Sustainable Transportation: Electric vehicles (EVs), hydrogen fuel cells, and smart transportation systems reduce air pollution and promote sustainable mobility.
VII. Water Purification and Management: Technologies like desalination, rainwater harvesting, and wastewater treatment ensure sustainable water supply and quality.

Goals of Green Technology:

Green technology has a diverse set of goals. The primary aim of green technologies is to meet societal needs without damaging or depleting the planet's natural capital. The aim is to satisfy current demands without compromising on quality. You've arrived at the right place if you want to learn everything there is to know about green technology's ambitions. The focus is now on creating materials that can be fully recycled or re-used. As one of the major priorities of green technology, efforts are being taken to minimize waste and emissions by shifting manufacturing and usage habits. Alternative technologies must be developed in order to avoid more harm to human health and the environment. Accelerating their adoption would be beneficial to our climate and will help to truly preserve the world. Investigate the aims of green technologies, including the introduction of sustainable living, the development of clean energies, and the reduction of waste.[5]

Roles of Green Technologies in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

Green technologies encompass a range of innovations that reduce environmental harm by conserving energy, minimizing waste, and optimizing the use of natural resources. Examples include renewable energy systems (solar, wind, and hydropower), waste recycling processes, energy-efficient buildings, and sustainable agriculture techniques. The SDGs, established in 2015, provide a comprehensive blueprint for achieving sustainable development by 2030, comprising 17 goals with 169 targets. Green technologies directly contribute to several SDGs, including SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Green Technologies and SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy - Green technologies, particularly renewable energy technologies (RETs), are pivotal for achieving SDG 7, which aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. According to IRENA (2020), scaling up renewable energy can account for 90% of the

[5] GGGI and TERI, "Summary for Policymakers Green Growth and Sustainable Development in India Towards the 2030 Development Agenda," 2015

necessary energy-related carbon dioxide emission reductions by 2050, emphasizing the importance of solar, wind, and bioenergy solutions.[6]

I. **Green Technologies and SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure** - Green technologies are also central to achieving SDG 9, which focuses on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation. The adoption of green manufacturing processes, such as cleaner production techniques and circular economy principles.[7]

II. **Green Technologies and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities** - Green technologies also play a vital role in achieving SDG 11, which aims to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Research highlights that energy-efficient buildings, smart grids, and green urban planning are key enablers of sustainable urban development.[8]

III. **Green Technologies and SDG 13: Climate Action** - SDG 13 aims to combat climate change and its impacts. The literature reveals that green technologies, particularly in renewable energy and energy storage systems, are effective in reducing GHG emissions and fostering climate resilience.[9]

SUSTAINABILITY:

A sustainable society is founded on equal access to nutritious food, clean drinking water, health care, smart shelter, education, energy, economic opportunities and employment. In this ideal society, humans live in harmony with their natural environment, conserving resources not only for their own generation, but also for their future generations. Each citizen enjoys a high quality of life and there is social justice for all. Many technologies like nanotechnology, next generation nuclear power, bio-fuels, bio-plastics, smart monitoring & prediction analysis, tidal energy etc. are some of the possible sustainable technologies for the future. Sustainable cities need sustainable technology for construction, maintenance and further growth. Sustainable Construction like recycled construction materials, green roofs for stormwater management, zero-energy buildings (those that generate at least as much renewable energy as they use), natural ventilation systems, etc, Sustainable infrastructures like sustainable urban drainage systems, low-irrigation landscaping, renewable energy sources such as biogas created from sewage, etc. Sustainable Transport Systems like public trains and buses that run on renewable fuels, coordinated bike paths and walkways, increased access to transport, tolls for private vehicle use, etc., and sustainable local resource production: like recycled rainwater for drinking and irrigation, farmscrapers, urban agricultural plots, farmers markets, etc. By means finding means to decrease the cost of production, maintenance, improving government policies to support research and adoption of such technologies, and educating people to promote and use such technologies in day-to-day life, sustainable technologies can be promoted.[10]

Future Prospects for Green Technologies:

The future of green technologies looks promising, driven by global commitments to sustainability, technological advancements, and increasing public awareness. Several factors are likely to influence the future trajectory of green technologies:

I. Government Policies and International Agreements: Policies promoting renewable energy, carbon pricing, and green investments, along with international agreements such as the Paris Agreement, are expected to accelerate the development and adoption of green technologies.

II. Technological Innovations and Breakthroughs: Continuous research and development (R&D) in fields such as renewable energy storage, carbon capture, and sustainable materials are likely to drive innovation and cost reduction.

III. Investment in Green Infrastructure: Public and private investments in green infrastructure, such as smart grids, electric vehicle charging networks, and sustainable urban development, are critical for enabling green technologies.

[6] Kumar, P., et al. (2021). Green energy technology: Pathways towards sustainable development. *Energy Research Journal*, 12(2), pp.101-115.

[7] Li, J., et al. (2019). Green technology innovation and its effect on economic development. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, pp.325-336

[8] Patel, S., et al. (2023). Sustainable urban development through green technologies: A review. *Sustainable Cities and Society*, 85, 102719

[9] Jacobson, M. Z., et al. (2017). 100% Clean and renewable wind, water, and sunlight all-sector energy roadmaps for 139 countries of the world. *Joule*, 1(1), pp.108-121.

[10] Aithal, Sreeramana and Aithal, Shubhrajyotsna (2016). Retrived from https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/73661/1/MPRA_paper_73661.pdf

IV. Public Awareness and Education: Increased awareness and education about the benefits of green technologies can lead to higher acceptance and demand among consumers and businesses.

V. Collaboration and Partnerships: Collaboration between governments, businesses, academia, and civil society is essential for developing and scaling green technologies that address local and global challenges.

1. Green Technologies for Clean and Renewable Energy:

Clean and renewable energy technologies are at the forefront of global efforts to mitigate climate change, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and achieve sustainable development. Green technologies in this context refer to innovations in energy generation, storage, and distribution that minimize environmental impacts while providing reliable and sustainable energy solutions. This literature review examines various types of green technologies for clean and renewable energy, their advancements, benefits, challenges, and future prospects. Green energy technologies primarily focus on harnessing natural resources such as sunlight, wind, water, and biomass to produce energy. These technologies aim to replace fossil fuels, which are the leading contributors to global GHG emissions. The shift towards renewable energy technologies (RETs) aligns with multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

2. The Positive Impact of Green Technologies:

Green technologies offer significant economic, environmental, and social benefits. Economically, they create new markets and job opportunities, especially within the circular economy, by fostering innovation and developing sustainable products. Environmentally, these technologies reduce carbon emissions and aid in pollution tracking and resource management. Socially, they enhance quality of life by improving air and water quality, reducing environmental health risks, and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. Additionally, green energy solutions like solar panels and wind turbines decrease reliance on fossil fuels, leading to reduced energy consumption and supporting a transition to more sustainable energy practices.[11]

3. The Negative Impact of Green Technologies:

Addressing the challenges of green technology requires a unified effort from governments, businesses, and individuals to unlock its full potential and ensure a sustainable future. However, green technologies also pose certain drawbacks. For instance, solar panels, wind turbines, and electric vehicle batteries contribute to electronic waste, complicating proper disposal and recycling. Additionally, reliance on rare materials for these technologies can lead to geopolitical tensions and trade disputes, as a few countries control the majority of global reserves. Inadequate recycling infrastructure further exacerbates these issues by impeding effective waste management and disposal practices. Balancing these challenges with the benefits is crucial for a sustainable transition.[12]

4. Issues and Challenges of Policy Implementation:

The implementation of policies supporting green technologies is crucial for transitioning towards a sustainable and low-carbon economy. Despite significant advancements in green technologies, there are numerous challenges and barriers that hinder their widespread adoption. These challenges often arise from the complexities of policy implementation, which involves navigating regulatory, financial, technical, and social landscapes. This review of literature explores the key issues and challenges associated with the policy implementation of green technologies, drawing on various studies and reports to provide a comprehensive overview.

I. Regulatory and Policy Frameworks: The development of regulatory and policy frameworks for green technologies is essential for providing clear guidelines, standards, and incentives. However, the literature identifies several challenges, including the complexity of regulatory environments, inconsistencies across regions, and frequent policy changes that create uncertainty. Inconsistent policy frameworks can discourage investment in green technologies and hinder long-term planning.[13]

[11] ForumIAS (2024) https://forumias.com/blog/kurukshetra-may-2024-summary-green-technologies-explained-pointwise/

[12] Gyatk (2024). https://gyatk.com/challenges-of-green-technology/

[13] Gunningham, N., & Sinclair, D. (2017). Regulatory pluralism: Designing policy mixes for environmental protection. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 25(2), 235-257.

II. Economic and Financial Barriers: Financial constraints are a significant barrier to the adoption of green technologies. The high upfront costs, limited access to finance, and perceived risks associated with new technologies can deter investment.[14]

III. Technological and Infrastructure Challenges: Technological challenges, such as the lack of grid infrastructure for integrating renewable energy, limited storage capabilities, and the need for technological advancements, are frequently cited in the literature as barriers to the deployment of green technologies. The transition to green technologies also requires significant upgrades to existing infrastructure, which can be costly and time-consuming.[15]

IV. Social and Behavioral Barriers: Social acceptance and behavioral factors play a crucial role in the adoption of green technologies. Public awareness, perceived risks, and resistance to change can significantly impact the implementation of policies supporting green technologies (Sovacool & Griffiths, 2020). The literature highlights the importance of engaging stakeholders and the public in the decision-making process to build trust and support for green initiatives.

V. Market and Competitive Challenges: Green technologies often face competition from established fossil fuel-based technologies that benefit from existing infrastructure, subsidies, and economies of scale (Steffen et al., 2018). The literature suggests that market dynamics, such as price competition and the availability of alternatives, can influence the adoption of green technologies. Policies aimed at leveling the playing field, such as removing fossil fuel subsidies and implementing carbon pricing, are critical but face political and economic resistance.

VI. International Collaboration and Technology Transfer: The global nature of environmental challenges necessitates international collaboration and technology transfer, especially to developing countries that may lack the resources and capacity to adopt green technologies independently. The literature identifies barriers such as intellectual property rights, lack of financial support, and differences in regulatory standards as obstacles to effective technology transfer.[16]

5. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

The review of literature and analysis in this paper highlight several key findings related to green technologies and the challenges of policy implementation:

I. **Diverse Applications of Green Technologies:** Green technologies encompass a broad range of sectors, including renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, waste management, green building, and water management. Each of these areas presents unique opportunities to reduce environmental impacts and promote sustainable development.

II. **Significant Contributions to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Green technologies play a critical role in achieving multiple SDGs, particularly those related to clean energy (SDG 7), sustainable industrialization (SDG 9), sustainable cities (SDG 11), and climate action (SDG 13). They provide practical solutions to reduce carbon emissions, enhance energy efficiency, and foster sustainable resource use.

III. **Economic, Environmental, and Social Benefits:** The adoption of green technologies offers significant benefits, including job creation, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and improved public health. These technologies also contribute to the development of new markets and industries, driving economic growth while minimizing environmental impacts.

IV. **Challenges in Policy Implementation:** Despite the potential of green technologies, several challenges hinder their widespread adoption:

A. Regulatory and Policy Inconsistencies: Fragmented and changing regulatory frameworks create uncertainty for investors and hinder long-term planning for green technology projects.

B. Economic and Financial Barriers: High initial costs, lack of financial incentives, and limited access to funding impede the adoption of green technologies, especially in developing countries.

[14] Mazzucato & Semieniuk, (2018). Financing renewable energy: Who is financing what and why it matters. ScienceDirect. Volume 127, pp.8-22

[15] Lilliestam, J., & Hanger, S. (2016). Shades of green: Centralisation, decentralisation and debate in the German energy transition. *Renewable Energy*, 36(2), pp.113

[16] Dechezleprêtre, A., et al. (2017). International technology transfer and diffusion: What do patent citations reveal? *Environmental and Resource Economics*, 66(1), pp.81-113

C. Technological and Infrastructure Constraints: Insufficient infrastructure, such as inadequate grid systems for renewable energy integration, and the need for technological advancements pose significant hurdles.

D. Social and Behavioral Barriers: Public resistance, lack of awareness, and behavioral inertia slow down the adoption of green technologies.

E. Market and Competitive Challenges: Established industries and existing fossil fuel-based technologies often enjoy competitive advantages through subsidies and established infrastructure, making it difficult for green technologies to compete.

F. International Collaboration and Technology Transfer: Effective global cooperation and technology transfer are essential but are often impeded by legal, financial, and regulatory barriers.

V. **Positive and Negative Impacts:** While green technologies offer considerable benefits, they also present challenges such as electronic waste, reliance on rare materials, and geopolitical issues related to resource control. Effective recycling and sustainable material sourcing are necessary to mitigate these negative impacts.

6. CONCLUSION:

Green technologies are pivotal in addressing the urgent environmental challenges of our time, such as climate change, resource depletion, and pollution. They are essential for the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy and play a crucial role in meeting the SDGs. However, the successful implementation and scaling of these technologies require robust and consistent policy support, substantial financial investment, technological innovation, and public engagement. The study underscores that while developed nations have made significant progress in adopting green technologies, developing countries face greater obstacles due to financial, technical, and regulatory challenges. A coordinated global effort, involving governments, private sectors, and international organizations, is necessary to overcome these barriers and promote equitable access to green technologies worldwide.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are proposed to enhance the adoption and effectiveness of green technologies:

I. **Strengthen Policy Frameworks:** Governments should establish clear, consistent, and long-term policies that support the development and deployment of green technologies. This includes setting ambitious targets for renewable energy adoption, implementing carbon pricing, and phasing out fossil fuel subsidies.

II. **Increase Financial Support and Incentives:** Financial barriers can be mitigated through increased investment in green technologies, subsidies, tax incentives, and low-interest loans. Public-private partnerships can also mobilize additional resources and reduce investment risks.

III. **Invest in Infrastructure and Technological Innovation:** Upgrading existing infrastructure and investing in new technologies are critical for scaling green technologies. Governments should support research and development initiatives, as well as the deployment of smart grids, energy storage solutions, and other enabling technologies.

IV. **Promote Public Awareness and Education:** Enhancing public understanding of the benefits of green technologies can increase acceptance and demand. Educational campaigns, stakeholder engagement, and community-based initiatives are vital for fostering behavioral change.

V. **Enhance International Collaboration and Technology Transfer:** Strengthening international cooperation is essential for sharing knowledge, technology, and resources. Efforts should focus on removing barriers to technology transfer, providing financial support to developing countries, and harmonizing regulatory standards.

VI. **Develop Sustainable Supply Chains:** To address the environmental impacts associated with green technologies, such as electronic waste and reliance on rare materials, it is crucial to develop sustainable supply chains. This includes improving recycling processes, sourcing materials responsibly, and investing in alternative

VII. materials.

VIII. **Encourage Market Reforms:** Reforms such as carbon pricing, removal of fossil fuel subsidies, and the introduction of green bonds can help level the playing field for green technologies and encourage their adoption.

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