

Sustainable Smart City Assistant Using IBM Granite LLM

Document



Introduction

- **project overview**
- **Architecture**
- **Setup Instructions**
- **Folder Structure**
- **Running the Application**
- **API Documentation**
- **User Interface**
- **Testing**

Project Overview

The **Sustainable Smart City Assistant** is an AI-powered conversational platform designed to help citizens, city administrators, and policymakers make better decisions for building and managing eco-friendly urban environments. Leveraging **IBM Granite LLM** along with real-time city data, the assistant provides actionable insights, guidance, and support on sustainability initiatives.

This project integrates **large language models (LLMs)** with **smart city infrastructure**, enabling citizens to interact with urban systems through natural language. The assistant simplifies complex data — such as energy usage, traffic congestion, waste management, air quality, and water conservation — into clear, actionable recommendations.

Key Objectives

1. **Citizen Support** – Provide instant answers to queries about public services, recycling, renewable energy programs, or eco-friendly transport options.
2. **Policy Assistance** – Help city planners and officials analyze sustainability data, draft reports, and track progress against carbon reduction targets.
3. **Real-time Insights** – Deliver up-to-date information on air quality, energy demand, or water consumption from IoT and sensor networks.
4. **Awareness & Engagement** – Educate citizens about sustainable practices, incentives, and community programs to encourage greener living.
5. **Scalability & Safety** – Ensure the system is secure, transparent, and adaptable to different cities and policy frameworks.

Architecture

The **Sustainable Smart City Assistant** follows a modular and scalable architecture that integrates **IBM Granite LLM** with city data sources, IoT infrastructure, and user-facing applications. The system ensures secure, real-time, and context-aware interactions while supporting both citizens and city administrators.



1. User Interface Layer

- **Channels:** Web app, mobile app, chatbots (WhatsApp, Messenger), voice assistants.
- **Features:** Conversational interface, quick-action buttons (e.g., “Report waste issue”), multilingual support, accessibility compliance.

2. Application & Orchestration Layer

- **Request Handler:** Manages user queries, applies authentication & authorization.
- **Prompt Orchestrator:** Prepares structured prompts for IBM Granite LLM using user context + retrieved documents.
- **Workflow Engine:** Triggers backend workflows (e.g., scheduling waste pickup, fetching energy reports).
- **Safety & Compliance Filters:** Content moderation, bias checks, escalation to human agents if needed.

3. LLM Layer (IBM Granite LLM)

- **Core Reasoning:** Generates responses in natural language.
- **RAG Integration:** Enhanced with **retrieval-augmented generation (RAG)** from city datasets and policy documents.
- **Domain Adaptation:** Fine-tuned or customized with sustainability-specific data.

4. Knowledge & Data Layer

- **Vector Database:** Stores municipal documents, sustainability guidelines, FAQs (for RAG).
- **City Data APIs:** Energy usage, transport schedules, waste collection, water supply, etc.

- **IoT & Sensor Feeds:** Real-time data from air quality monitors, traffic systems, weather stations.
- **Citizen Feedback DB:** Stores support tickets, surveys, and complaints for analytics.

5. Integration & Services Layer

- **GIS / Mapping Systems:** Location-aware insights (nearest recycling center, bike station).
- **External APIs:** Weather services, national energy dashboards, health advisories.
- **Municipal Services:** Waste pickup booking, public transport updates, utility billing.

6. Monitoring & Analytics Layer

- **System Monitoring:** Performance, uptime, response latency.
- **Usage Analytics:** Query types, service requests, citizen engagement stats.
- **Sustainability KPIs:** Track emissions reduction, recycling rates, energy savings.

7. Security & Governance Layer

- **Data Privacy Controls:** Compliance with GDPR, local data laws.
- **Audit Logs:** For traceability of responses and actions.
- **Role-based Access:** Different permissions for citizens, officials

Setup Instructions

Follow these steps to set up the **Sustainable Smart City Assistant** locally or on a cloud server.

1. Prerequisites

- **Python 3.9+** installed
- **pip** package manager
- Access to **IBM Granite LLM API** (via IBM watsonx.ai or Granite SDK)
- Git & Virtual Environment tools
- Optional: Docker (for containerized deployment)

Installation Process:

- Clone the repository
- Install dependencies from requirements.txt
- Create a .env file and configure credentials
- Run the backend server using Fast API
- Launch the frontend via Streamlit
- Upload data and interact with the modules

Folder structure

- **app.py** → main entry point (runs Gradio interface).
- **modules/** → all core functionality (eco tips, summarization, PDF handling).
- **models/llm_handler.py** → wrapper for calling IBM Granite (or Hugging Face) so you can swap models easily.
- **scripts/** → one-off scripts (like loading docs for RAG).
- **data/** → local test PDFs + vector DB storage.
- **logs/** → debugging + monitoring.
- **tests/** → ensures each module works

Running the Application



1. Activate Virtual Environment

If you created a virtual environment earlier, activate it:

```
source venv/bin/activate  
venv\Scripts\activate
```

2. Install Dependencies

Make sure all requirements are installed:

```
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

3. Set Environment Variables

Create a `.env` file in the project root with your API keys:

```
IBM_API_KEY=your_ibm_granite_api_key  
IBM_PROJECT_ID=your_project_id  
IBM_REGION=us-southq
```

4. Run the Application

(a) Gradio Web App

```
python
```

(b) FastAPI Backend (Optional)

If you added an API server (`api.py`):

```
uvicorn api:app --reload
```

→ Visit Swagger docs at: <http://127.0.0.1:8000/docs>

Stop the Application

Press:

```
CTRL + C
```

to stop the running server.

API Documents – Sustainable Smart City Assistant



API Documents – Sustainable Smart City Assistant

Endpoint	Method	Description	Request Format	Response Format
/eco-tips	POST	Generate eco-friendly tips based on keywords.	JSON: { "keywords": "plastic waste, energy saving" }	JSON: { "tips": "Switch to reusable bags, use LED bulbs, unplug appliances when not in use." }
/policy-summary	POST	Summarize sustainability policy (from PDF upload or raw text).	Option A (PDF): Multipart Form with <code>file</code> field. Option B (Text): JSON: { "policy_text": "Policy description here..." }	JSON: { "summary": "Policy promotes renewable energy adoption and emission reduction by 2030." }
/health	GET	Check if API is running.	None	JSON: { "status": "ok", "service": "Sustainable Smart City Assistant", "version": "1.0" }

User interface

The **User Interface** of the Sustainable Smart City Assistant is designed to be **intuitive, interactive, and accessible**, enabling citizens, policymakers, and city administrators to engage with the system easily. The UI is built using **Gradio** for web-based interaction, with support for text, file uploads, and actionable buttons.

1. Design Principles

- **Simplicity:** Minimalist layout to focus on tasks like generating eco tips or summarizing policies.
- **Responsiveness:** Works on desktop, tablet, and mobile devices.
- **Accessibility:** Clear labels, high contrast, and readable fonts to accommodate all users.
- **Guided Interaction:** Step-by-step prompts, tooltips,

Testing

- Testing was done in multiple phases:
 - Unit Testing: For prompt engineering functions and utility scripts
 - API Testing: Via Swagger UI, Postman, and test scripts
 - Manual Testing: For file uploads, chat responses, and output consistency
 - Edge Case Handling: Malformed inputs, large files, invalid API keys
 - Each function was valida
-