## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for Chemical Communications

## Upper critical solution temperature (UCST) phase transition of halide salts of polyethylenimine and methylated polyethylenimine in aqueous solutions

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Phase transition behavior of various polyethyleniminium (PEI) halide salts



Fig. S1 (A) Phase transition behavior of PEIB at HBr/N ratio or 2 (polymer composition (w/w) = 20% ( $\bullet$ ), 25% ( $\circ$ ), and 30% ( $\nabla$ )). (B) Phase transition behavior of PEIB at HBr/N ratio or 2.5 (polymer composition (w/w) = 20% ( $\bigtriangledown$ ), 25% ( $\blacksquare$ ), and 30% ( $\square$ )). (C) Phase transition behavior of PEII at a polymer composition of 35% (w/w) and HI/N ratio of 1.5. (D) Phase transition behavior of PEIC at a polymer composition of 20% (w/w) and HCI/N ratio of 4.0.

pH of the polymer-halide salt solutions<sup>a</sup>

| Α. | Composition (w/w%) <sup>b</sup> |       |       |        |       |       |       |  |  |  |  |  |
|----|---------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
|    |                                 | HCI   |       | ні     |       |       |       |  |  |  |  |  |
|    |                                 | 20wt% | 20wt% | 25wt%  | 30wt% | 35wt% | 35wt% |  |  |  |  |  |
|    | 1.5eq <sup>c</sup>              | _     | 0.53  | 0.44   | 0.15  | -0.25 | 0.25  |  |  |  |  |  |
|    | 2.0eq                           | —     | 0.40  | 0.33   | 0.050 | —     | —     |  |  |  |  |  |
|    | 2.5eq                           | —     | 0.20  | -0.040 | -0.22 | —     | —     |  |  |  |  |  |
|    | 4.0eq                           | -0.40 | —     | —      | —     | —     | —     |  |  |  |  |  |

Β.

|                                  | Composition (w/w%) <sup>b</sup> |       |       |       |       |       |  |  |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|
|                                  | 10wt%                           | 20wt% | 30wt% | 35wt% | 40wt% | 50wt% |  |  |
| MPEII <sub>0.38</sub> (0.80 kDa) | 3.7                             | 3.4   | 3.4   | _     | 3.4   | 3.6   |  |  |
| MPEII <sub>0.35</sub> (25 kDa)   | 4.4                             | 4.4   | —     | 4.6   | —     | 4.3   |  |  |

<sup>a</sup>The pH value of the solution was measured by the pH meter (SevenEasy<sup>™</sup>, Mettler-Toledo, Switzerland) with the appropriate pH range of 2-11. Extreme pH values were automatically calculated by the instrument through extrapolation. <sup>b</sup>Composition of polymer halide salts in water

<sup>c</sup>Equivalent of HX to total amines (N) in *b*-PEI

Table S1. pH values of (A) the PEI halide solutions and (B) MPEII solutions.

Determination of the quaternary ammonium degree of  $MPEII_{0.35}$  (25 kDa) (A) and  $MPEII_{0.38}$  (0.80kDa) (B)



Fig. S2 The inverted gate (INVGATE)  $^{13}$ C NMR spectra of MPEII<sub>0.35</sub> (25 kDa) (A) and MPEII<sub>0.38</sub> (0.80 kDa) (B).

## Hysteresis of MPEII<sub>0.35</sub> (25 kDa)



Fig. S3 Hysteresis of  $MPEII_{0.35}$  (25 kDa) at 20% (w/w) polymer composition (Cooling ( $\bullet$ ) and heating (O)).