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Supplementary Material

Fig.S1 Microphotographs of untreated (A) and Cu₂O/binder treated (B) samples

In Figure S1a and S1b microscope photos of blank sample A and Cu_2O /binder treated respectively are shown. The fibres in Figure S1b appear more compact as a result of the padding and fixation process. The amounts of binder used for Cu_2O fixation however are too low to form a visible coating layer. In a magnified photograph of Cu_2O /binder treated sample A the Cu_2O particles can be recognised, while no visible binder layer is present (Figure S2).



Fig. S2 Microscope photograph of Cu₂O/binder treated sample A

Figures S3 and S4 show electron micrographs of untreated and Cu_2O /binder treated samples A and B. The small Cu_2O particles can be recognised as light dots on the fibres.



 $$\rm B$$ Fig. S3 Electron micrographs of untreated (A) and Cu_2O/binder treated (B) sample A



В

Fig.S4 Electron micrographs of untreated (A) and Cu_2O /binder treated (B) sample B