

Supplementary Information

Nitrogen-Enriched Polydopamine Analogue-Derived Defect-Rich Porous Carbon as Bifunctional Metal-Free Electrocatalysts for Highly Efficient Overall Water Splitting

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1. Supplementary Figures

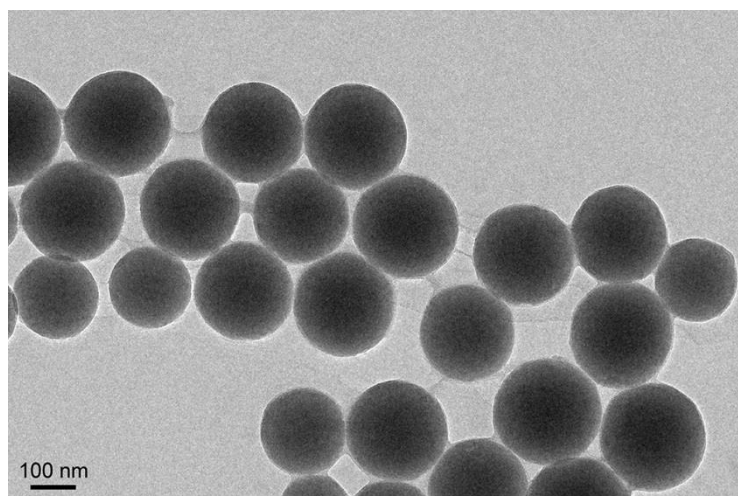


Figure S1. TEM image of spherical SiO₂ sample.

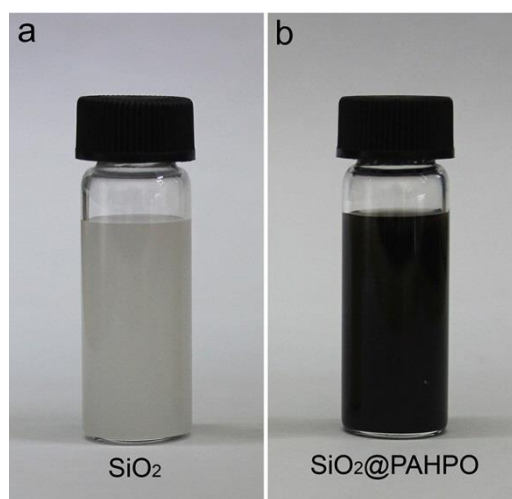


Figure S2. Photographs of (a) SiO₂ dispersion and (b) Polymerized dispersion.

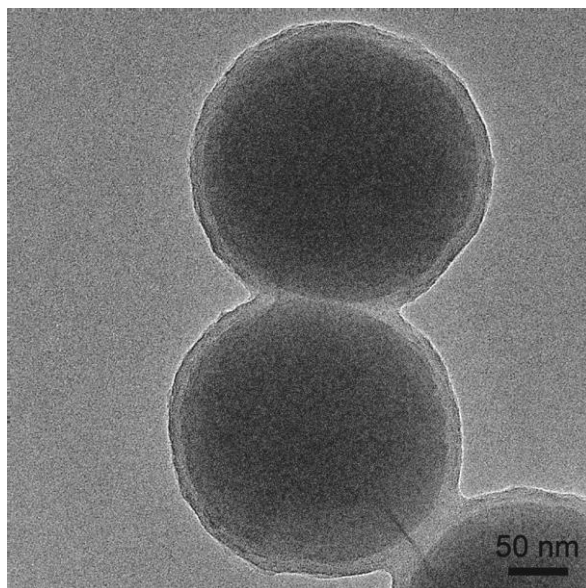


Figure S3. TEM image of SiO₂@PAHPO.



Figure S4. A photograph of DRPC powder.

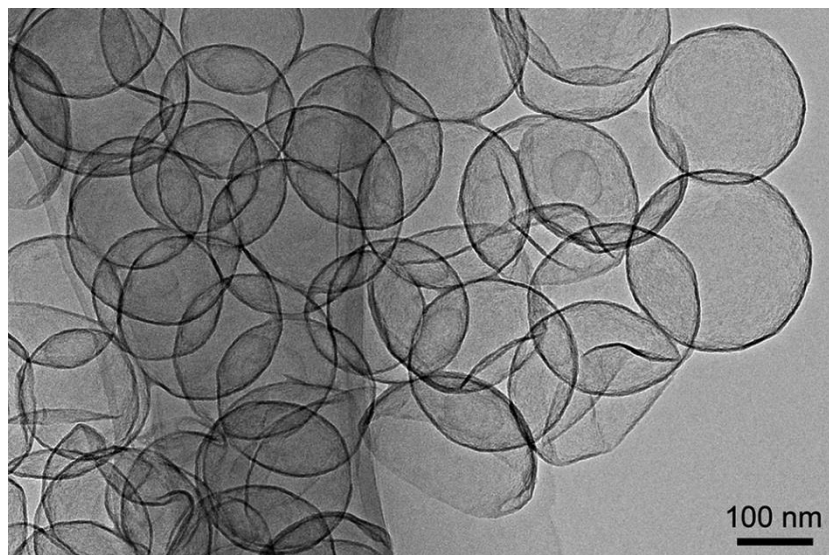


Figure S5. TEM image of PC.

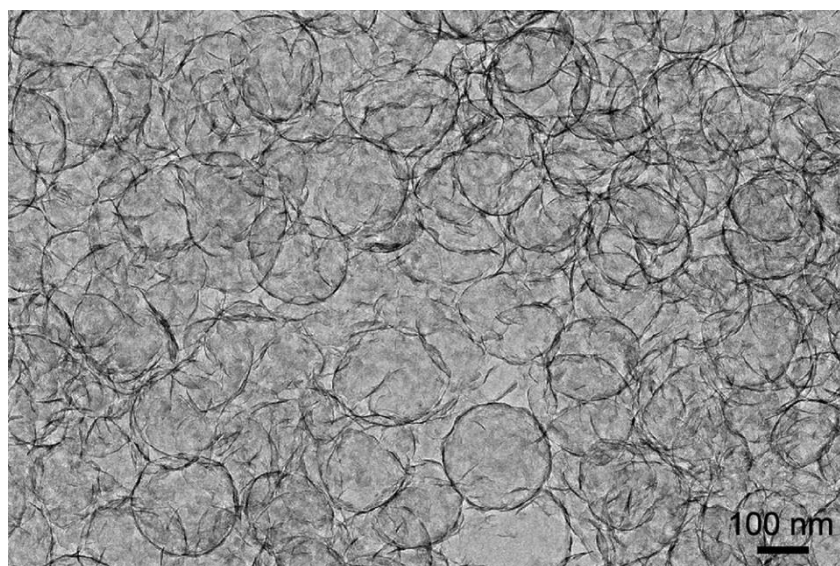


Figure S6. TEM image of DRPC.

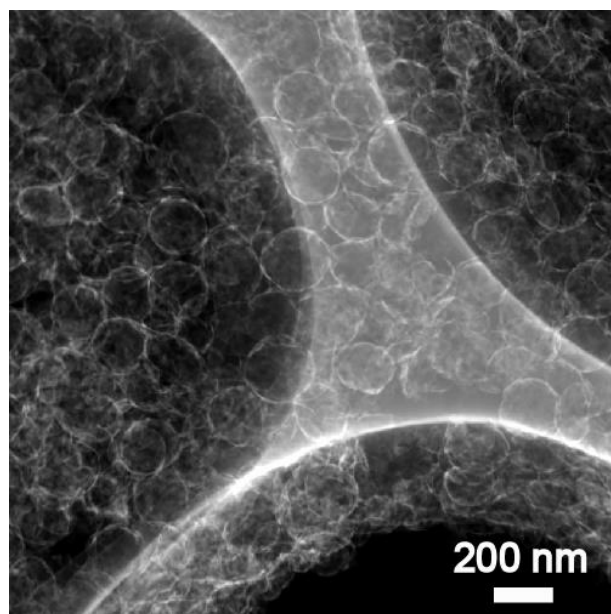


Figure S7. STEM image of DRPC.

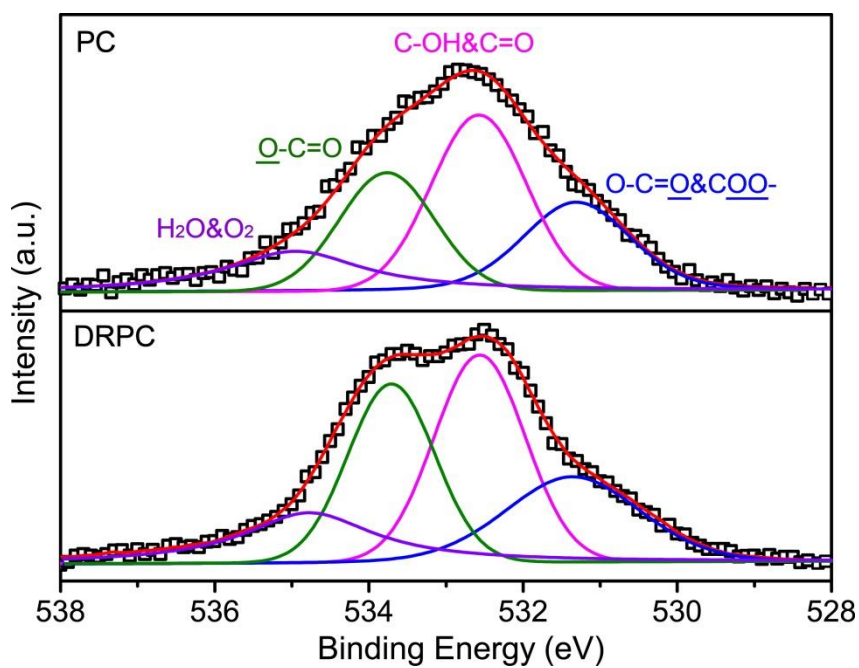


Figure S8. High-resolution XPS spectra of the O 1s core level for PC and DRPC.

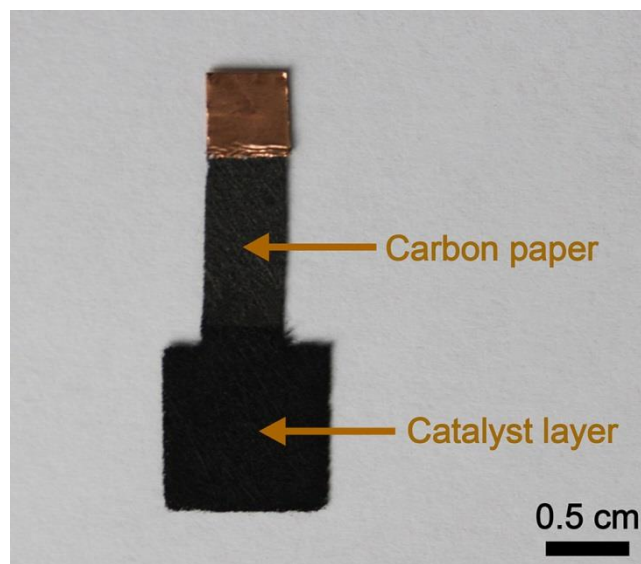


Figure S9. A photograph of DRPC catalyst on carbon fiber paper.

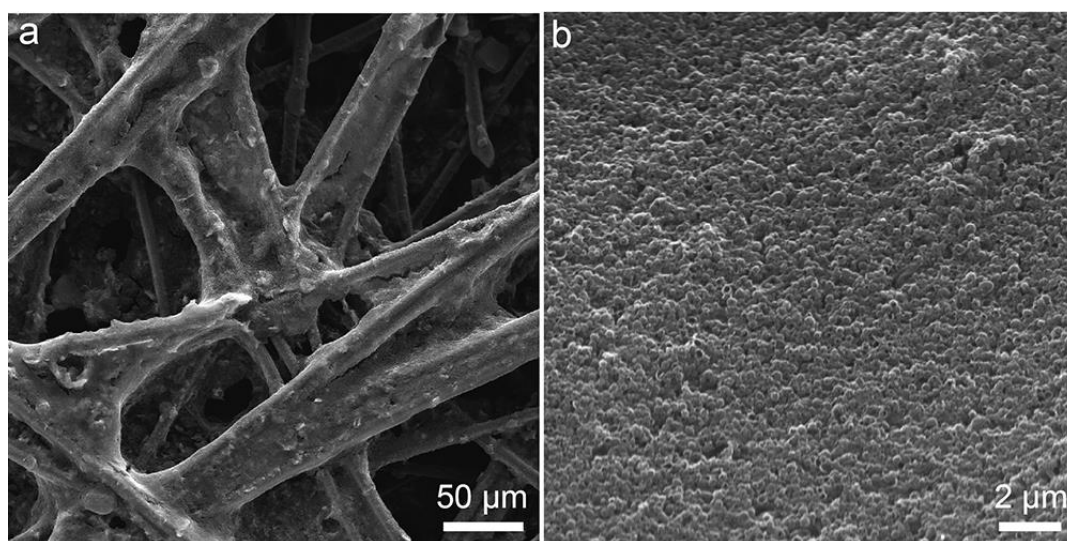


Figure S10. SEM images of the DRPC catalyst on carbon fiber paper.

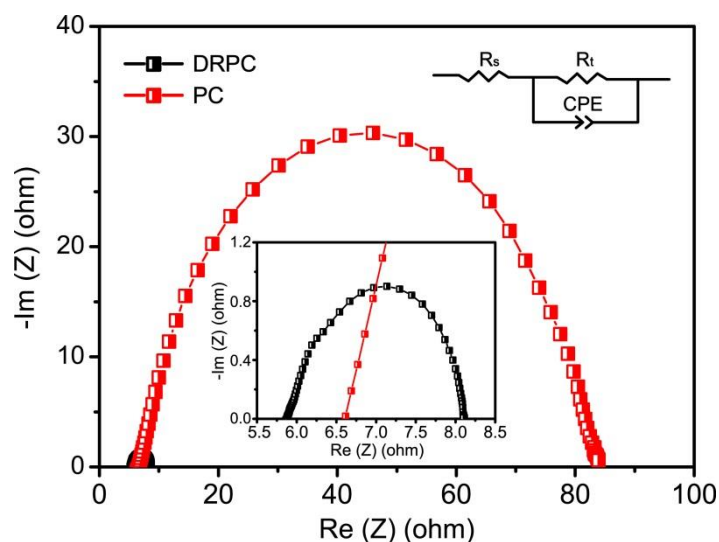


Figure S11. EIS plots of the catalysts. The inset is the enlarged version of the DRPC and PC catalysts.

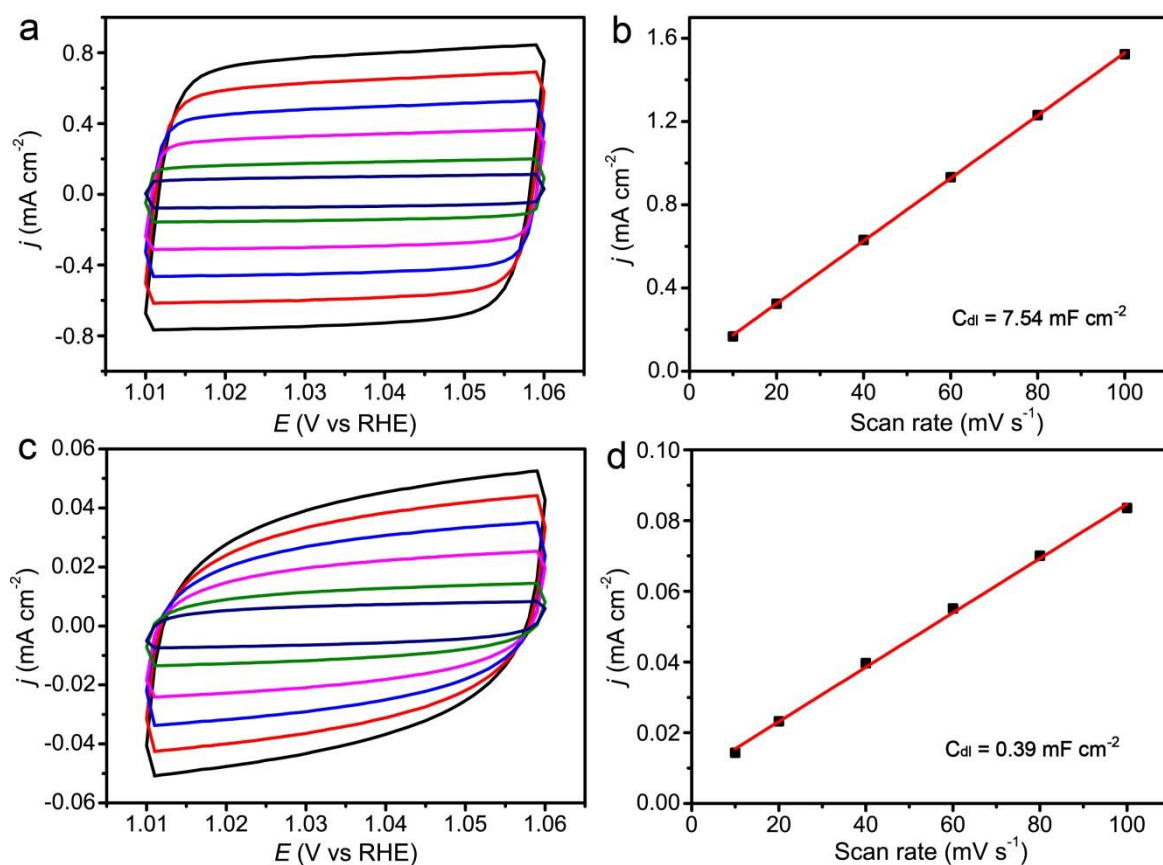


Figure S12. CV curves of (a) DRPC and (c) PC with various scan rates (10, 20, 40, 60, 80 and 100 mV s⁻¹). The charging current density differences plotted against scan rates for (b) DRPC and (d) PC. The calculated C_{dl} values are shown in insets.

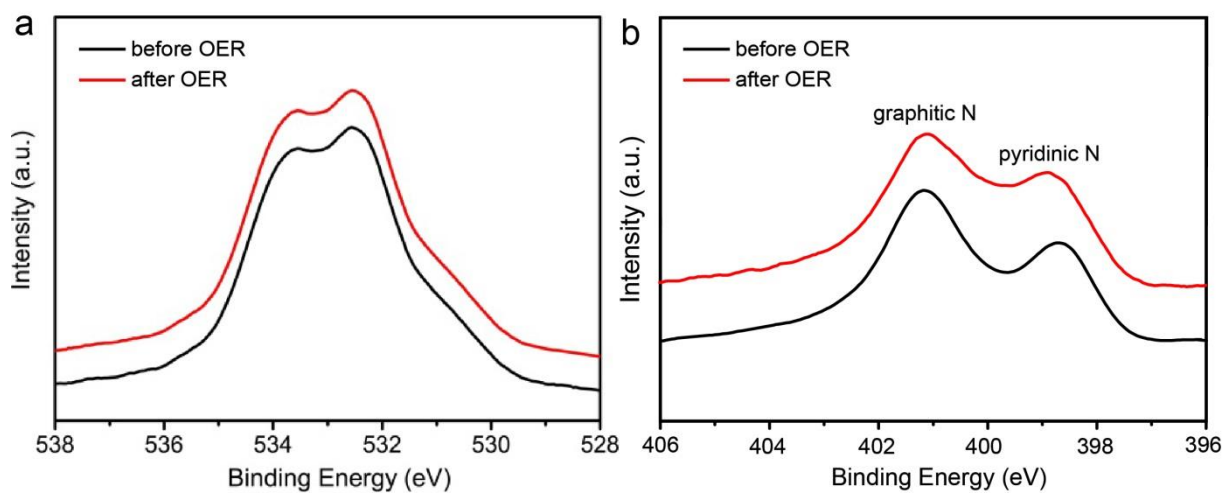


Figure S13. (a) The O 1s and (b) N 1s spectra of DRPC catalysts before and after OER tests.

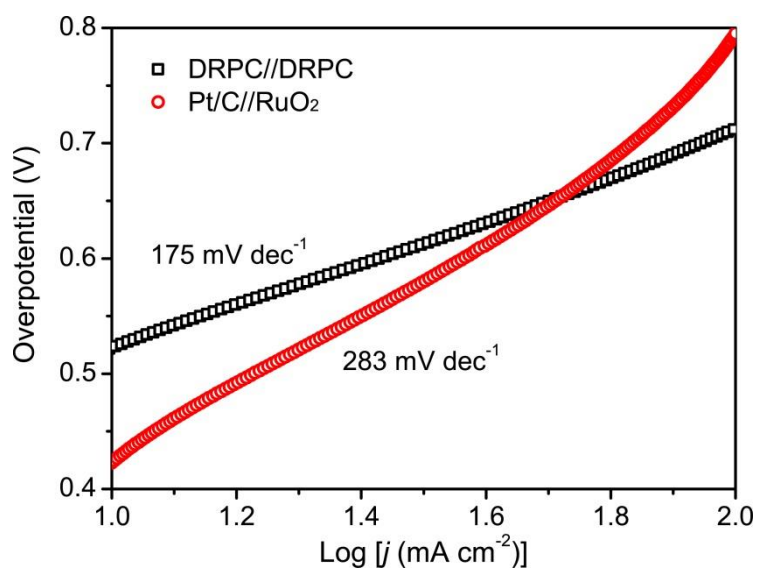


Figure S14. Tafel plots of the DRPC//DRPC and Pt/C//RuO₂ electrolyzers. The calculated Tafel slope values are shown in insets.

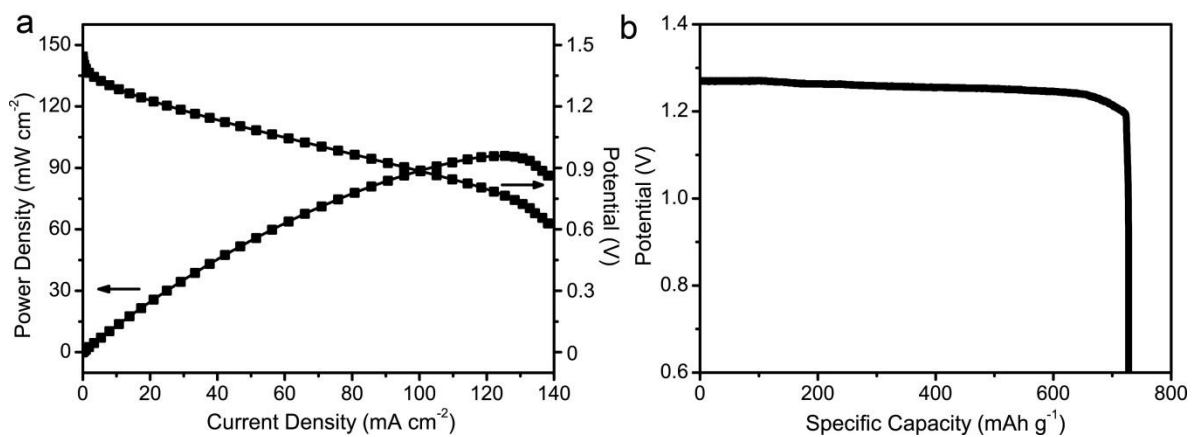


Figure S15. (a) Polarization and power density curves of primary Zn-air battery using DRPC as the ORR electrocatalyst. (b) Long-time galvanostatic discharge curves of primary Zn-air battery with DRPC as cathode catalyst until complete consumption of Zn anode.

2. Supplementary tables

Table S1. HER parameters of the typical comparable samples.

| Catalyst | Catalyst loading (mg cm ⁻²) | η_{10} (mV) | Tafel slope (mV dec ⁻¹) | Electrolyte | Ref. |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| DRPC | 0.16 | 217 | 98 | 1.0 M KOH | This work |
| C ₃ N ₄ @NG | 0.10 | ~240 | 51 | 0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄ | Nat. Commun. 2014, 5, 3783 |
| N,S-G | 0.20 | ~274 | / | 1.0 M KOH | Adv. Mater. 2017, 29, 1604942 |
| N,P-G | 0.20 | ~422 | 91 | 0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄ | ACS Nano 2014, 8, 5290 |
| N,O,P-G | 0.10 | ~446 | 154 | 1.0 M KOH | Energy Environ. Sci. 2016, 9, 1210 |
| N,S-CNT | 0.20 | ~450 | 133 | 1.0 M KOH | Adv. Energy Mater. 2017, 7, 1602068 |
| N-G | 0.20 | ~488 | / | 0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄ | ACS Nano 2014, 8, 5290 |
| S-G | 0.20 | ~550 | / | 0.5 M H ₂ SO ₄ | ACS Nano 2014, 8, 5290 |
| Amorphous Co ₂ B | 0.21 | ~328 | 92 | 1.0 M KOH | Adv. Energy Mater. 2016, 6, 1502313 |
| Co-NRCNT | 0.28 | ~370 | / | 1.0 M KOH | Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2014, 53, 4372 |
| Co-NG | 0.28 | ~270 | / | 1.0 M NaOH | Nat. Commun. 2015, 6, 8668 |
| CoO _x @CN | 0.12 | ~232 | / | 1.0 M KOH | J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2015, 137, 2688 |

η_{10} : current density @ 10 mA cm⁻²

Table S2. OER parameters of the typical comparable samples.

| Catalyst | Catalyst loading (mg cm ⁻²) | η_{10} (mV) | Tafel slope (mV dec ⁻¹) | Electrolyte | Ref. |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| DRPC | 0.16 | 360 | 57 | 1.0 M KOH | This work |
| B-CNTs | 0.04 | ~600 | 51 | 1.0 M KOH | Electrochim. Acta 2014, 143, 291 |
| N,S-G | 0.20 | ~450 | / | 1.0 M KOH | Adv. Mater. 2017, 29, 1604942. |
| N,O,P-G | 0.10 | ~400 | 84 | 1.0 M KOH | Energy Environ. Sci. 2016, 9, 1210 |
| N-PCC | 8.00 | ~360 | 98 | 1.0 M KOH | Energy Environ. Sci. 2016, 9, 3411 |
| N,S-GF | / | ~355 | 78 | 1.0 M KOH | Adv. Energy Mater. 2016, 6, 1501492 |
| N,S-CNT | 0.20 | ~360 | 56 | 1.0 M KOH | Adv. Energy Mater. 2017, 7, 1602068 |
| RuO ₂ | 0.16 | ~385 | 98 | 1.0 M KOH | This work |
| Amorphous Co ₂ B | 0.21 | ~380 | 45 | 1.0 M KOH | Adv. Energy Mater. 2016, 6, 1502313 |
| Ni-NG | / | ~370 | 190 | 1.0 M KOH | Energy Environ. Sci., 2013, 6, 3693 |
| CoO-NG | 0.70 | ~340 | 71 | 1.0 M KOH | Energy Environ. Sci. 2014, 7, 609 |

η_{10} : current density @ 10 mA cm⁻²

Table S3. Atomic content of PC and DRPC calculated from the XPS survey spectra.

| Sample | C | O | N |
|--------|---------|---------|--------|
| PC | 90.29 % | 6.69 % | 3.02 % |
| DRPC | 80.29 % | 10.35 % | 9.36 % |

Table S4. The sp^2 , sp^3 carbon, C-O&C-N, C=O relative content and sp^2/sp^3 in the samples of PC and DRPC.

| C species | sp^2 | sp^3 | C-O&C-N | C=O | sp^2/sp^3 |
|-----------|--------|--------|---------|-------|-------------|
| PC | 57.6 % | 21.7 % | 13.5 % | 7.2 % | 2.65 |
| DRPC | 51.3 % | 23.9 % | 15.7 % | 9.1 % | 2.14 |

Table S5. The percent composition for C-O, C=O and oxygen or absorbed water in the samples of PC and DRPC.

| O species | COO-&O-C=O | C-OH&C=O | O-C=O | O ₂ &H ₂ O |
|-----------|------------|----------|--------|----------------------------------|
| PC | 1.48 % | 2.62 % | 1.72 % | 0.87 % |
| DRPC | 1.98 % | 3.92 % | 2.89 % | 1.56 % |

3. Supplementary video

Video S1. The evolution of H₂ and O₂ in the DRPC catalyst couple-based alkaline water electrolyzer (20 mA cm⁻² overall water splitting current).