

Electronic Supplementary Information

***In situ* generated amorphous CoFePi and crystalline Ni(PO₃)₂ heterojunction as an efficient electrocatalyst for oxygen evolution**

Dong-Cheng Liu,^{ab†} Li-Ming Cao,^{b†} Zhi-Mei Luo,^b Di-Chang Zhong,^{a*} Jing-Bo Tan,^b
and Tong-Bu Lu^{ab*}

^a Institute for New Energy Materials & Low Carbon Technologies, School of Materials Science & Engineering, Tianjin University of Technology, Tianjin 300384, China.

^b MOE Key Laboratory of Bioinorganic and Synthetic Chemistry, School of Chemistry, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou 510275, China.

† These authors contributed equally to this work.

*Email - zhong_dichang@hotmail.com

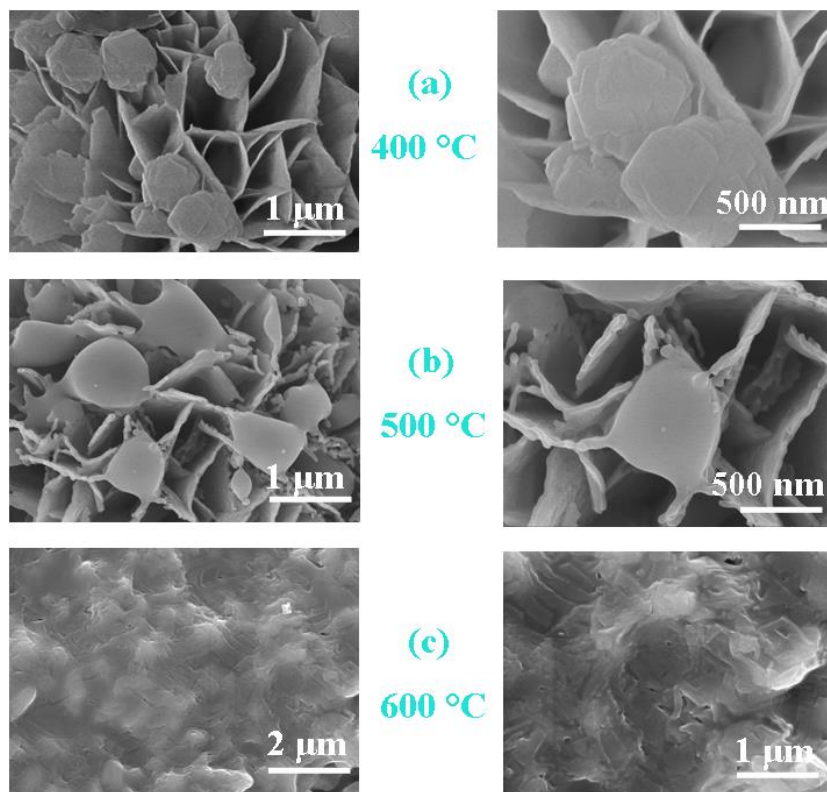


Fig. S1 SEM images of CoFePi/Ni(PO₃)₂/CC prepared at the phosphorization temperature of a) 400, b) 500, and c) 600 °C for 2 h, respectively.

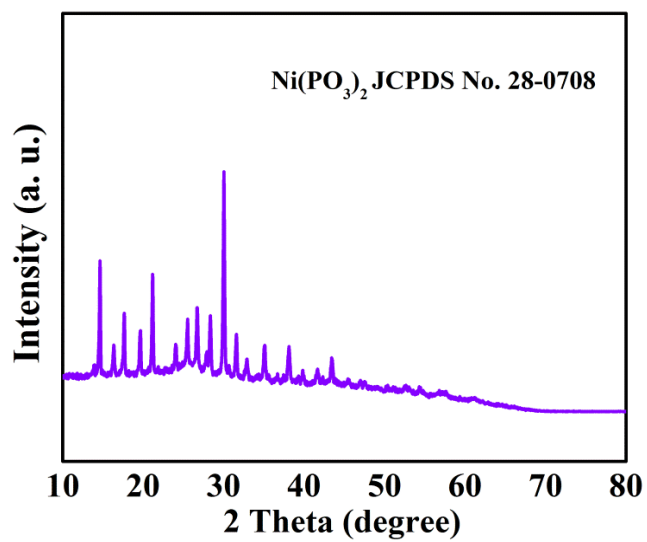


Fig. S2 XRD pattern of Ni(PO₃)₂ powder sample.

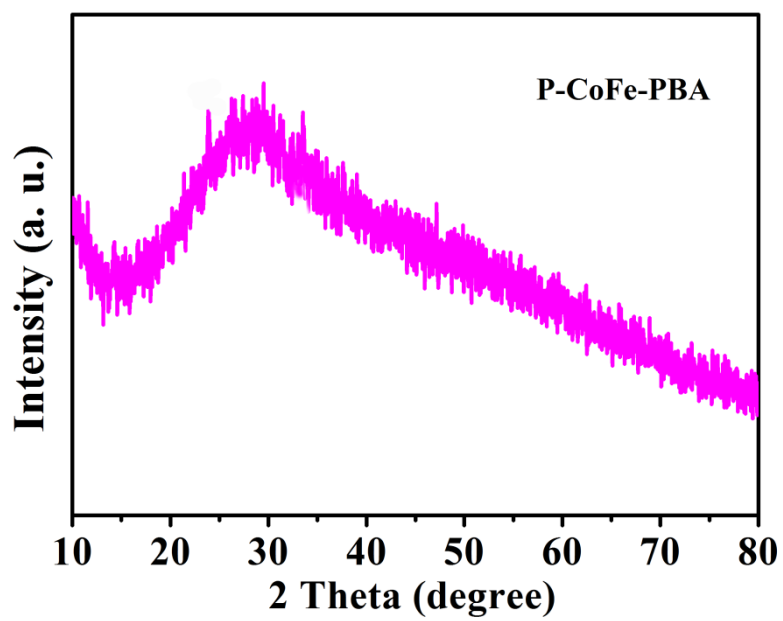


Fig. S3 XRD pattern of P-CoFe-PBA powder.

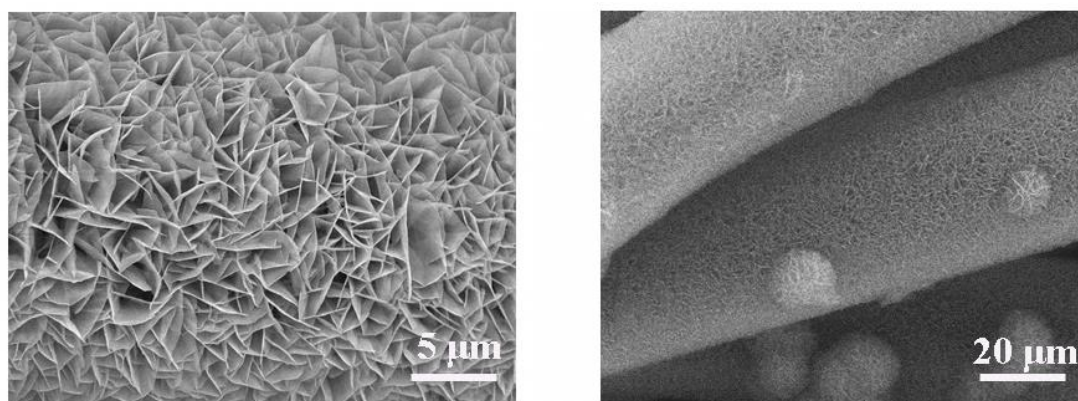


Fig. S4 SEM images of Ni(OH)₂/CC.

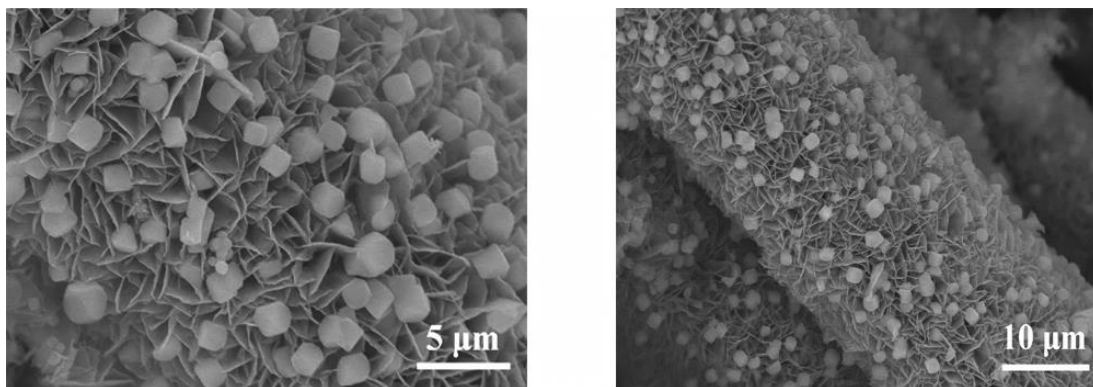


Fig. S5 SEM images of CoFe-PBA/Ni(OH)₂/CC.

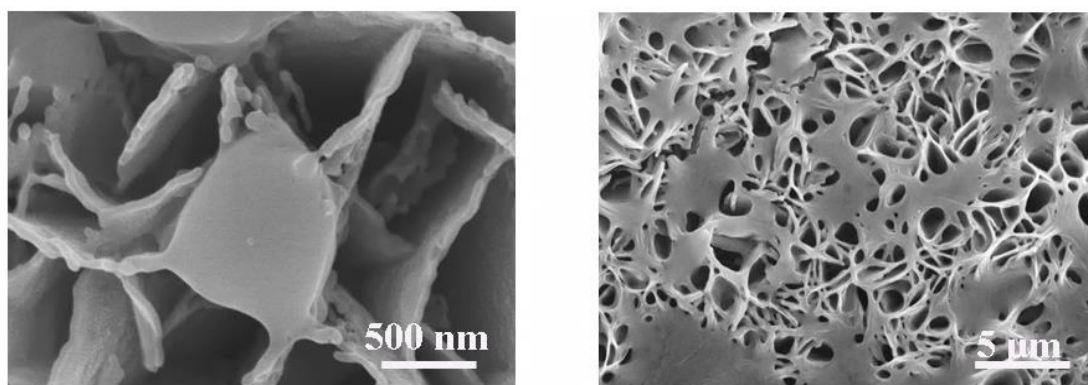


Fig. S6 SEM images of CoFePi/Ni(PO₃)₂/CC.

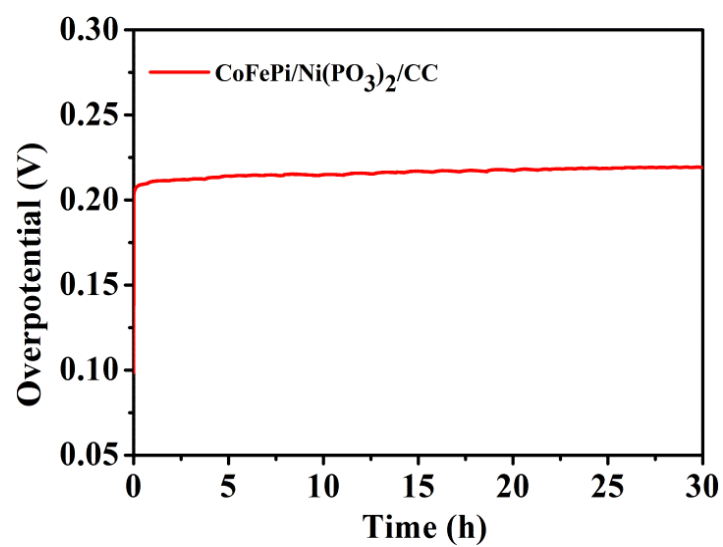


Fig. S7 Current density trace of CoFePi/Ni(PO₃)₂/CC for 30 h.

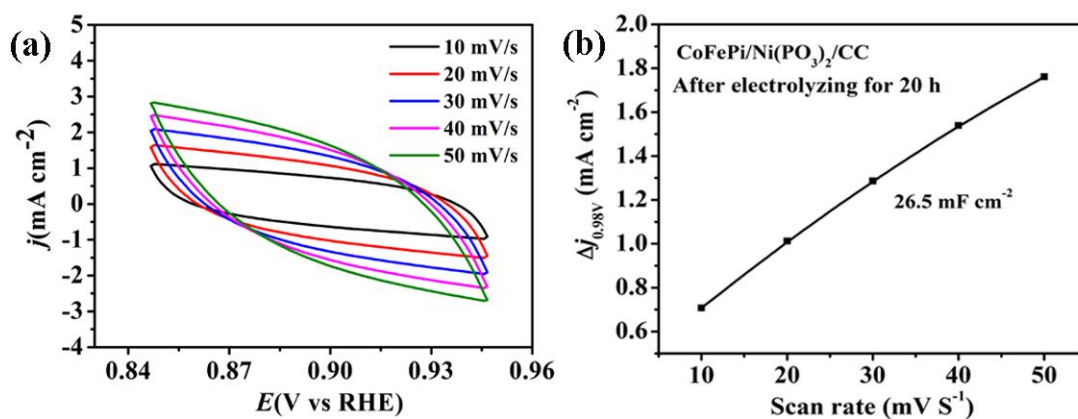


Fig. S8 (a) CVs of CoFePi/Ni(PO₃)₂/CC after OER for 20h. (b) The capacitive current density $\Delta j_{0.98V}$ as a function of scan rate in the range of 0.85-0.95 V vs. RHE.

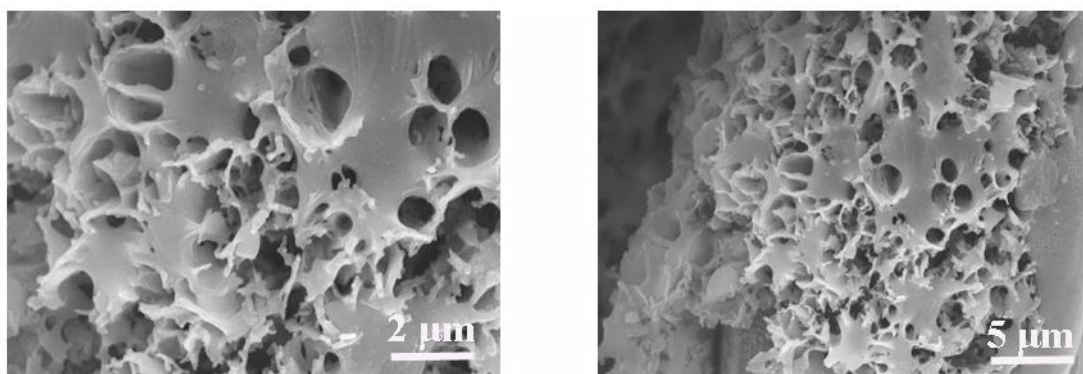


Fig. S9 SEM images of CoFePi/Ni(PO₃)₂/CC after OER for 20h.

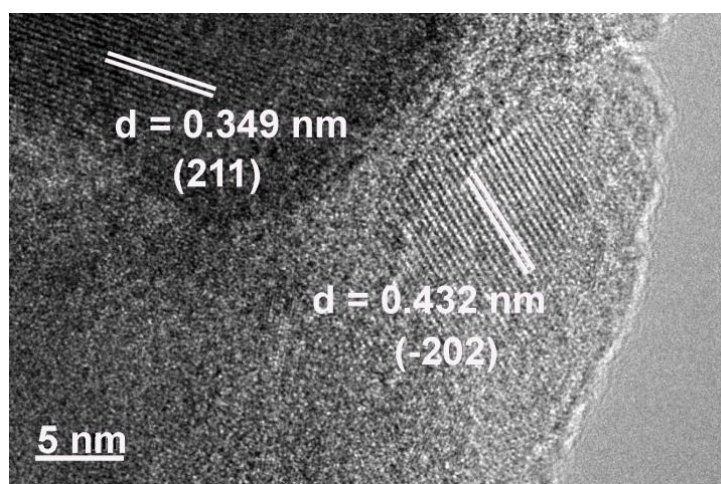


Fig. S10 HRTEM image of CoFePi/Ni(PO₃)₂/CC after OER for 20h.

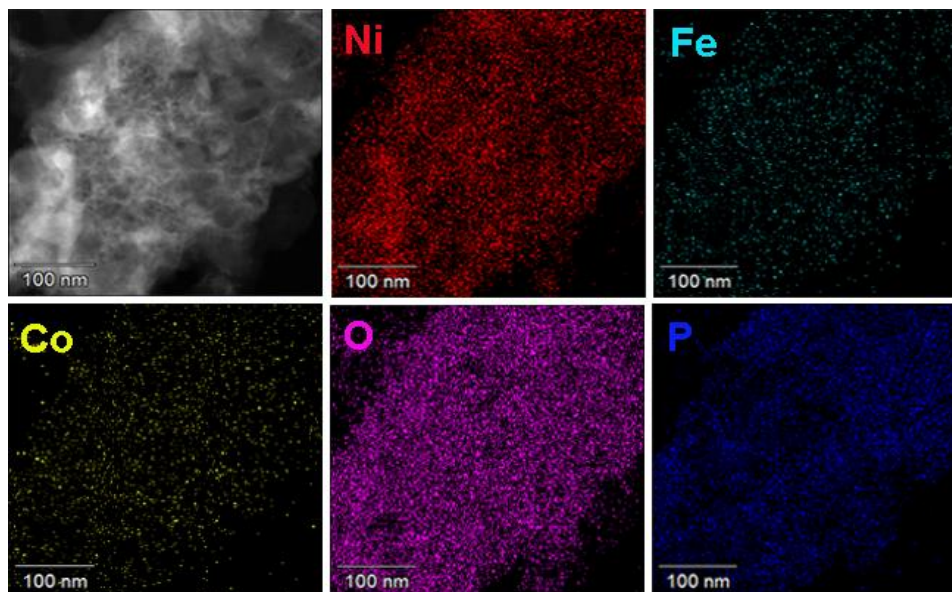


Fig. S11 STEM images and the corresponding elemental mapping of CoFePi/Ni(PO₃)₂/CC after OER for 20h.

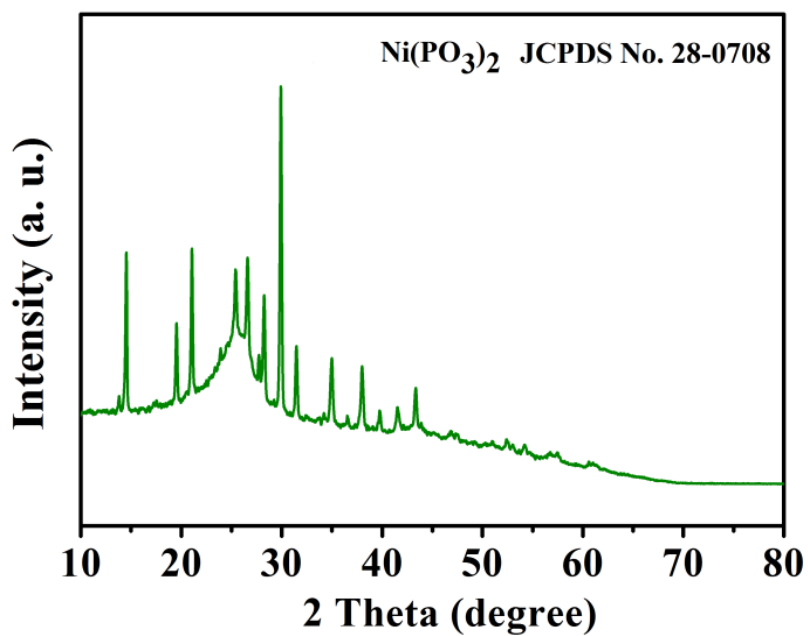


Fig. S12 XRD pattern of CoFePi/Ni(PO₃)₂/CC after OER for 20h.

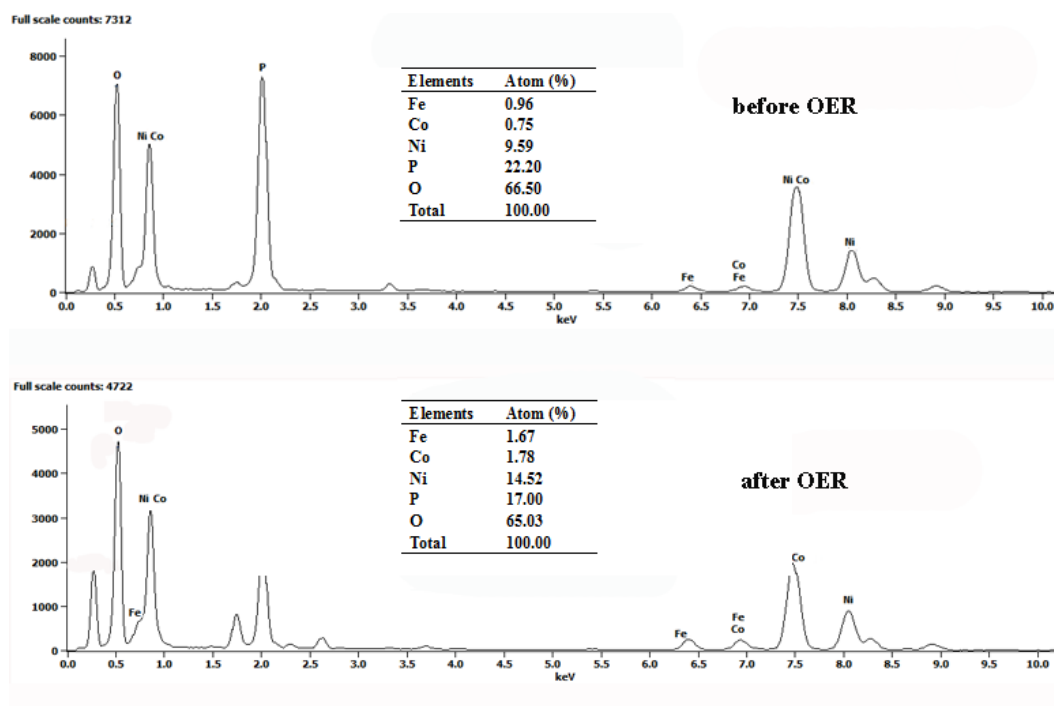


Fig. S13 EDS of CoFePi/Ni(PO₃)₂/CC before and after OER for 20h.

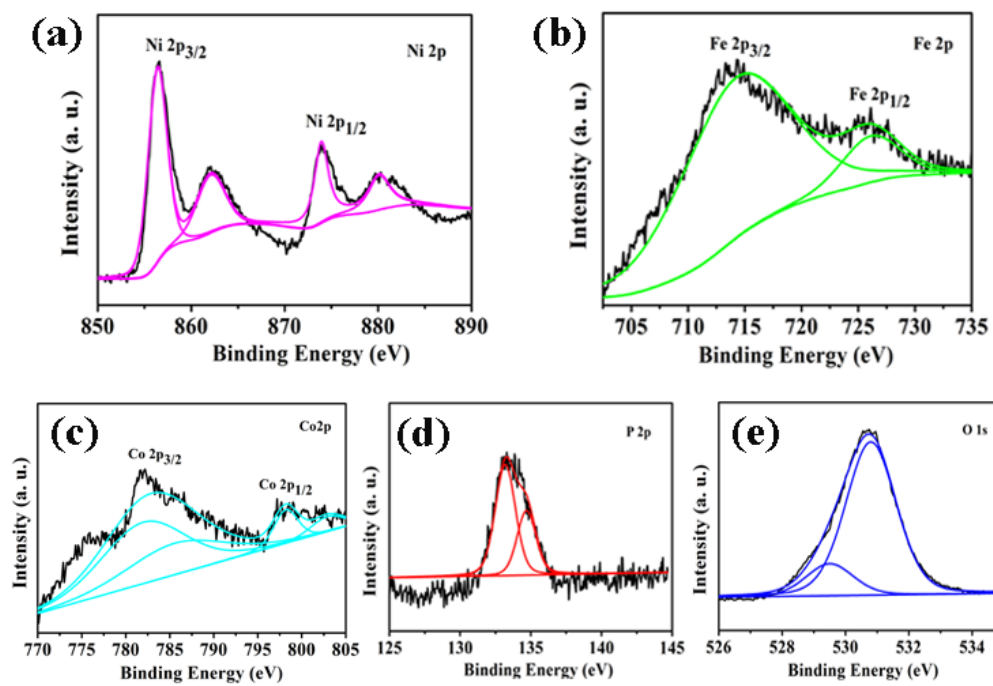


Fig. S14 High resolution XPS spectra of (a) Ni 2p, (b) Fe 2p, (c) Co 2p, (d) P 2p, and (e) O1s for CoFePi/Ni(PO₃)₂/CC after OER for 20h.

Table S1. The performance of CoFePi/Ni(PO₃)₂ and reported electrocatalysts for OER.^a

| Catalyst | η at 10 mA cm ⁻² (mV) | Tafel slope (mV del ⁻¹) | Mass loading (mg cm ⁻²) | Substrate ^b | Reference |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| CoFePi/Ni(PO₃)₂ | 213 | 39 | 1.37 | CC | This work |
| Co ₃ (PO ₄) ₂ @N-C | 317 | 62 | N.A. | GCE | <i>J. Mater. Chem. A</i> , 2016 , <i>4</i> , 8155-8160. |
| NiFe LDH@NiCoP | 220 | 88.2 | 2.0 | NF | <i>Adv. Funct. Mater.</i> 2018 , <i>28</i> , 1706847. |
| NiFePi/P | 230 | 57 | N.A. | NF | <i>J. Mater. Chem. A</i> , 2018 , <i>6</i> , 7509-7516. |
| Ni:Pi-Fe | 220 | 37 | N.A. | NF | <i>Chem. Mater.</i> , 2016 , <i>28</i> , 5659-5666. |
| Ni ₅ P ₄ | 290 | 40 | 3.48 | Ni foil | <i>Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> , 2015 , <i>54</i> , 12361-12365. |
| Ni ₂ P | 290 | 47 | 0.14 | GCE | <i>Energy Environ. Sci.</i> , 2015 , <i>8</i> , 2347-2351. |
| Co-Fe-P | 244 | 58 | 1.03 | NF | <i>ACS Appl. Mater. Interf.</i> , 2017 , <i>9</i> , 362-370. |
| NiCoP | 242 | 64.2 | 2.0 | CC | <i>ACS Catal.</i> , 2017 , <i>7</i> , 413-420. |
| Ni _{1.5} Fe _{0.5} P | 264 | 55 | 1.38 | CFP | <i>Nano Energy</i> , 2017 , <i>34</i> , 472-480. |
| CoMnP | 330 | 61 | 0.28 | GCE | <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> , 2016 , <i>138</i> , 4006-4009. |
| NiCoP@C | 330 | 96 | 0.25 | GCE | <i>Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> , 2017 , <i>56</i> , 3897-3900. |
| FeP@rGO | 260 | 175 | ~0.71 | CFP | <i>J. Mater. Chem. A</i> , 2016 , <i>4</i> , 9750-9754. |
| MoS ₂ /Ni ₃ S ₂ | 218 | 88 | 9.7 | NF | <i>Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> 2016 , <i>55</i> , 6702-6707. |
| S-NiCoFe LDH | 206 | 46 | 1.05 | CC | <i>J. Mater. Chem. A</i> , 2018 , <i>6</i> , 3224-3230. |
| NiFeO _x | 230 | 31.5 | 1.6 | CFP | <i>Nat. Commun.</i> , 2015 , <i>6</i> , 7261. |
| CoFe ₂ O ₄ /C NRAs | 240 | 45 | 0.424 | NF | <i>Adv. Mater.</i> , 2017 , <i>29</i> , 1604437. |
| Gelled FeCoW | 191 | 37 | 0.21 | NF | <i>Science</i> , 2016 , <i>352</i> , 333-337. |

^aThe electrolyte is 1.0 M KOH unless otherwise stated. η is overpotential. ^bNF = nickel foam; CFP = carbon fiber paper; CC = carbon cloth; GCE = glassy carbon electrode.