

## Supplemental Information

# Theoretical Study on the Microscopic Mechanism of Lignin Solubilization in Keggin-type Polyoxometalate Ionic Liquids

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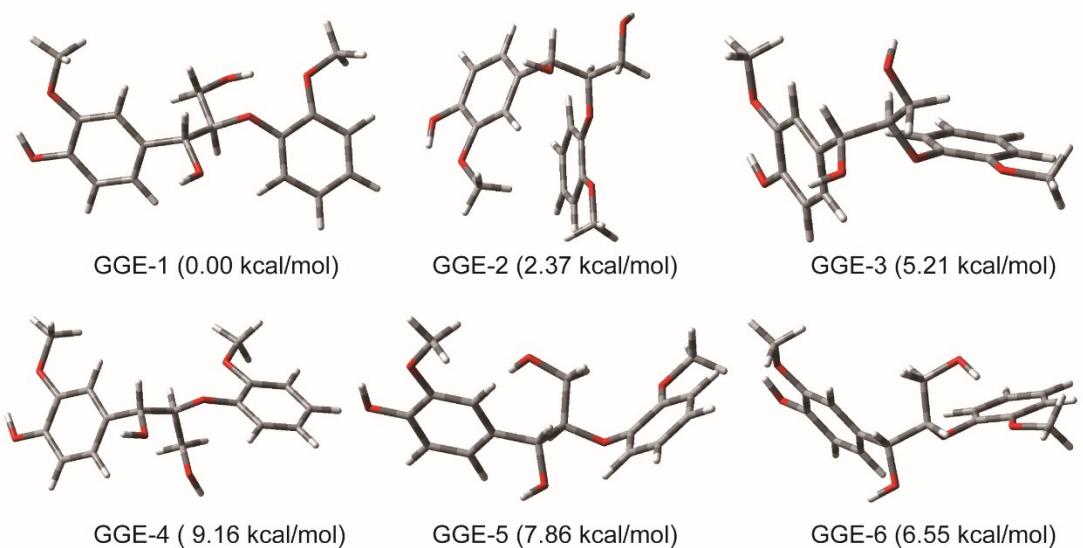
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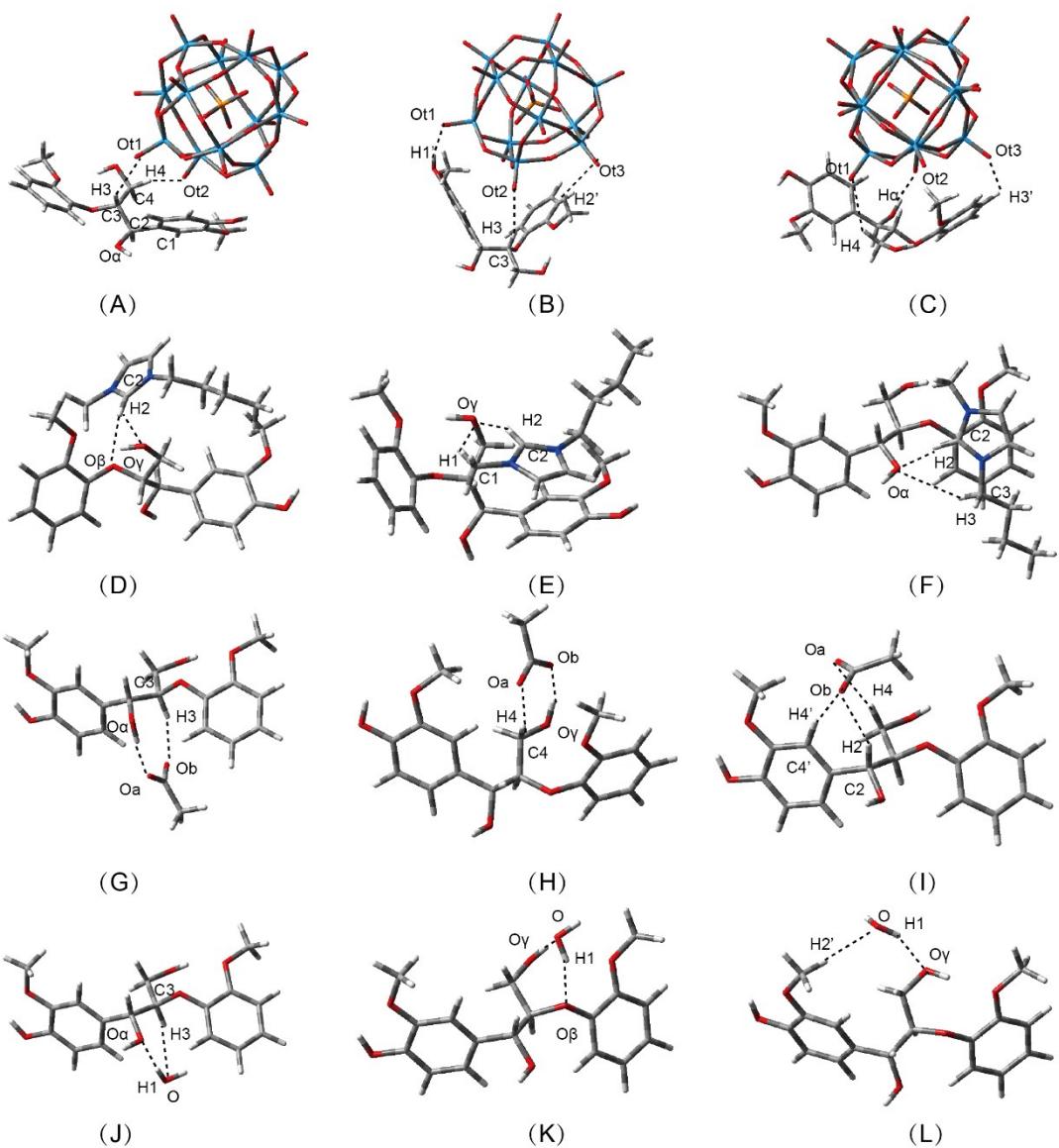
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# Content

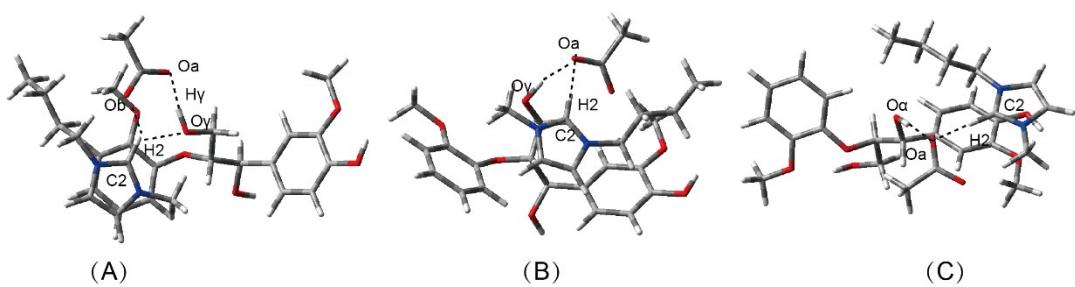
1. **Fig. S1:** Conformational isomers of GGE model compound, and the relative energies to GGE-1 are labeled in parentheses.
2. **Fig. S2:** Optimized the geometries of GGE and isolated anion/cation (A-C) GGE-POM, (D-F) GGE-C4C1Im (G-I) GGE-OAc and (J-L) GGE-H<sub>2</sub>O.
3. **Fig. S3:** Optimized the geometry of GGE-[C4C1Im][OAc].
4. **Fig. S4:** Isosurfaces (isovalue = 0.5 a.u.) of (A) GGE-[C4C1Im]<sub>3</sub>[PW<sub>12</sub>O<sub>40</sub>] and (B) GGE-[C4C1Im][OAc]. Blue indicates strong attractive interaction like H-bonds, green indicates the π-π interaction and red indicates steric hindrance.
5. **Table S1:** The selected bond distance (Å) of the isolated [PW<sub>12</sub>O<sub>40</sub>]<sup>3-</sup> anion
6. **Table S2:** The corresponding H-Bonds lengths (in angstroms), bond angles (in degrees) and interaction energies (in kcal/mol) of [C4C1Im]<sup>+</sup> [PW<sub>12</sub>O<sub>40</sub>]<sup>3-</sup> structures.
7. **Table S3:** Bond lengths, bond energies E<sub>HB</sub>, electron densities ρ(r) and Laplacian values ∇<sup>2</sup>ρ(r) for the H-bonds of the [C4C1Im]<sup>+</sup> [PW<sub>12</sub>O<sub>40</sub>]<sup>3-</sup> complex of the POM-ILs.
8. **Table S4:** The corresponding H-Bonds lengths (in angstroms), bond angles (in degrees) and interaction energies (in kcal/mol) of [C4C1Im]<sub>3</sub>[PW<sub>12</sub>O<sub>40</sub>] ion pairs.
9. **Table S5:** The NPA charge (a.u.) of [C4C1Im]<sub>3</sub>[PW<sub>12</sub>O<sub>40</sub>] ion pairs corresponding to the geometry in Fig. 3 (B).
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11. **Table S7:** Changes in bond length (in angstroms) for GGE while it interacts with POM
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14. **Table S10:** Changes in bond length (in angstroms) for GGE while more cations were introduced in the system corresponding to the structures of Fig. 5.
15. **Table S11:** The corresponding H-Bonds lengths (in angstroms), bond angles (in degrees) and interaction energies (in kcal/mol) of GGE-[C4C1Im][OAc] structures.



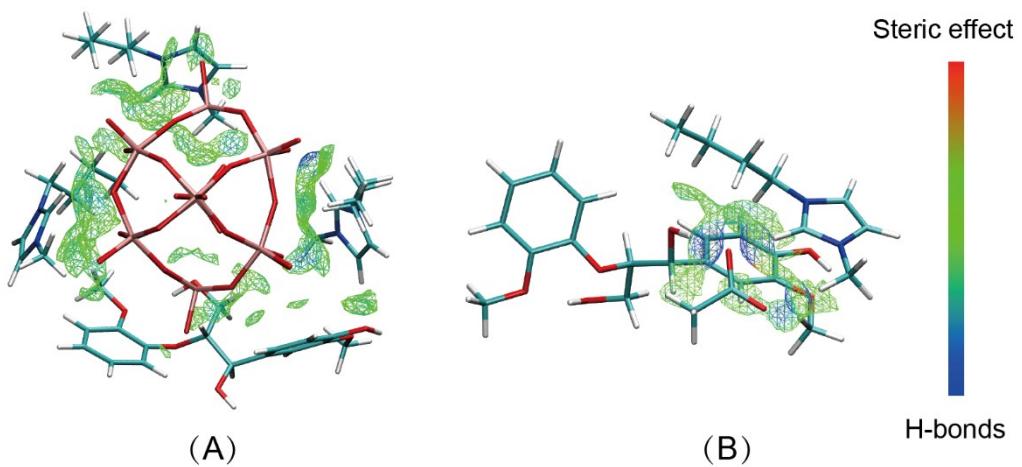
**Fig. S1** Conformational isomers of GGE model compound, and the relative energies to GGE-1 are labeled in parentheses.



**Fig. S2** Optimized geometries of GGE and isolated anion/cation: GGE-POM (A-C), GGE-C4C1Im (D-F), GGE-OAc (G-I), and GGE-H<sub>2</sub>O (J-L).



**Fig. S3** Optimized the geometry of GGE-[C4C1Im][OAc].



**Fig. S4** Isosurfaces (isovalue = 0.5 a.u.) of (A) GGE- $[C_4C_1Im]_3[PW_{12}O_{40}]$  and (B) GGE- $[C_4C_1Im][OAc]$ . Blue indicates strong attractive interaction like H-bonds, green indicates the  $\pi-\pi$  interaction and red indicates steric hindrance.

**Table S1** The selected bond distance ( $\text{\AA}$ ) of the isolated  $[\text{PW}_{12}\text{O}_{40}]^{3-}$  anion

bond	DFT	expt <sup>a</sup>
P-O <sub>a</sub>	1.55	1.53
W-O <sub>d</sub>	1.71	1.70
W-O <sub>b1</sub>	1.93	1.91
W-O <sub>b2</sub>	1.92	1.91
W-O <sub>a</sub>	2.46	2.44

<sup>a</sup>Reference 40**Table S2** The corresponding H-Bonds lengths (in angstroms), bond angles (in degrees) and interaction energies (in kcal/mol) of  $[\text{C4C1Im}]^+ [\text{PW}_{12}\text{O}_{40}]^{3-}$  structures.

Entry	H-bonds	Length	Angle	$\Delta E_1^a$	$\Delta E_2^a$	$\Delta \text{BSSE}^a$	$\Delta E_{2C}^a$	$\Delta E_{2CR}^a$
(A)	C1-H1...Ot1	2.23	164.30	-167.91	-171.91	5.71	-166.20	0.00
	C2-H2...Ob1	2.04	149.43					
	C3-H3...Ot2	2.55	113.70					
(B)	C1-H1...Ot1	2.23	136.74	-157.95	-161.16	4.21	-156.95	4.21
	C2-H2...Ob1	2.74	155.60					
	C3-H3...Ot2	2.60	107.92					
(C)	C1-H1...Ot1	2.51	133.09	-162.50	-166.49	5.51	-160.98	5.21
	C2-H2...Ot2	1.99	144.81					
	C3-H3...Ot2	2.26	148.45					
(D)	C2-H2...Ot1	1.94	152.85	-156.67	-159.69	4.80	-154.89	11.31
	C3-H3...Ot1	2.45	146.82					

<sup>a</sup>  $\Delta E_1$ ,  $\Delta E_2$ ,  $\Delta \text{BSSE}$ ,  $\Delta E_{2C}$  and  $\Delta E_{2CR}$  represent the interaction energies using M06L/6-31g\*\* (LANL2DZ basis sets on metal atoms), the interaction energies using M06L/def2-TZVP, the values of BSSE, the interaction energies ( $\Delta E_2$ ) corrected by BSSE and the relative interaction energies ( $\Delta E_{2C}$ ).

**Table S3** Bond lengths, bond energies  $E_{HB}$ , electron densities  $\rho(r)$  and Laplacian values  $\nabla^2\rho(r)$  for the H-bonds of the  $[C_4C_1Im]^+ [PW_{12}O_{40}]^{3-}$  complex of the POM-ILs.

Entry	Type of H-bonds	V(r) (a.u.)	$E_{HB}$ (kJ/mol)	$\rho(r)$ (a.u.)	$\nabla^2\rho(r)$ (a.u.)
(A)	C1-H1...Ot1	-0.011	-14.92	0.015	0.041
	C2-H2...Ob1	-0.018	-23.03	0.023	0.066
	C3-H3...Ot2	-0.006	-8.27	0.009	0.034
(B)	C1-H1...Ot1	-0.012	-15.30	0.016	0.051
	C2-H2...Ob1	-0.011	-14.81	0.016	0.052
	C3-H3...Ot2	-0.006	-8.12	0.009	0.036
(C)	C1-H1...Ot1	-0.006	-7.71	0.009	0.031
	C2-H2...Ot2	-0.020	-26.48	0.026	0.080
	C3-H3...Ot2	-0.011	-14.87	0.015	0.048
(D)	C2-H2...Ot1	-0.022	-29.05	0.028	0.086
	C3-H3...Ot1	-0.007	-9.43	0.010	0.035

**Table S4** The corresponding H-Bonds lengths (in angstroms), bond angles (in degrees) and interaction energies (in kcal/mol) of  $[C_4C_1Im]_3[PW_{12}O_{40}]$  ion pairs.

Entry	H-bonds	Length	Angle	$\Delta E_1^a$	$\Delta E_2^a$	$\Delta BSSE^a$	$\Delta E_{2C}^a$	$\Delta E_{2CR}^a$
(A)	C2-H2...Ot1	2.39	98.64	-366.23	-376.42	15.29	-361.14	3.44
	C3-H3...Ot1	2.33	160.68					
	C2'-H2'...Ob1	2.70	160.04					
	C3'-H3'...Ot1	2.33	163.33					
	C2''-H2''...Ot3	2.01	149.90					
	C3''-H3''...Ot3	2.47	143.40					
(B)	C2-H2...Ot1	1.99	157.05	-365.24	-375.81	16.09	-359.72	4.85
	C3-H3...Ot1	2.70	143.25					
	C2'-H2'...Ot2	2.55	105.09					
	C1''-H1''...Ot3	2.50	109.20					
(C)	C2-H2...Ob1	2.21	139.91	-369.9	-379.19	14.61	-364.58	0.00
	C1-H1...Ot1	2.44	158.97					
	C2-H2'...Ot2	2.60	130.15					
	C1-H1''...Ot3	2.44	160.67					

<sup>a</sup>  $\Delta E_1$ ,  $\Delta E_2$ ,  $\Delta BSSE$ ,  $\Delta E_{2C}$  and  $\Delta E_{2CR}$  represent the interaction energies using M06L/6-31g\*\* (LANL2DZ basis sets on metal atoms), the interaction energies using M06L/def2-TZVP, the values of BSSE, the interaction energies ( $\Delta E_2$ ) corrected by BSSE and the relative interaction energies ( $\Delta E_{2C}$ ).

**Table S5** The NPA charge (a.u.) of  $[C_4C_1Im]_3[PW_{12}O_{40}]$  ion pairs corresponding to the geometry in Fig. 3 (B).

	<b>C4C1Im1</b>	<b>C4C1Im2</b>	<b>C4C1Im3</b>	<b>POM</b>			
C	-0.695	-0.696	-0.695	P	2.739	O2-9	-0.704
H	0.247	0.231	0.245	W1	1.82	O2-10	-0.702
H	0.232	0.232	0.241	W2-1	1.859	O2-11	-0.705
H	0.231	0.248	0.227	W2-2	1.859	O2-12	-0.732
C	-0.466	-0.465	-0.461	W2-3	1.817	O2-13	-0.729
H	0.247	0.244	0.23	W2-4	1.819	O2-14	-0.734
H	0.24	0.245	0.252	W3-1	1.775	O2-15	-0.713
C	-0.467	-0.468	-0.472	W3-2	1.812	O2-16	-0.703
H	0.234	0.235	0.233	W4-1	1.819	O2-17	-0.728
H	0.232	0.232	0.242	W4-2	1.819	O2-18	-0.681
C	-0.253	-0.255	-0.243	W4-3	1.813	O2-19	-0.73
H	0.262	0.274	0.254	W4-4	1.818	O2-20	-0.729
H	0.272	0.264	0.269	W5	1.793	O2-21	-0.722
N	-0.333	-0.32	-0.335	O1-1	-1.054	O2-22	-0.699
C	0.282	0.269	0.278	O1-2	-1.048	O2-23	-0.718
H	0.275	0.271	0.274	O1-3	-1.054	O2-24	-0.681
N	-0.337	-0.33	-0.333	O1-4	-1.046	O3-1	-0.473
C	-0.044	-0.043	-0.045	O2-1	-0.683	O3-2-1	-0.523
H	0.27	0.278	0.269	O2-2	-0.683	O3-2-2	-0.527
C	-0.041	-0.042	-0.038	O2-3	-0.703	O3-2-3	-0.52
H	0.27	0.275	0.269	O2-4	-0.702	O3-2-4	-0.532
C	-0.486	-0.489	-0.484	O2-5	-0.729	O3-3-1	-0.549
H	0.276	0.28	0.25	O2-6	-0.683	O3-3-2	-0.478
H	0.249	0.265	0.275	O2-7	-0.686	O3-4-1	-0.545
H	0.264	0.25	0.265	O2-8	-0.697	O3-4-2	-0.522
						O3-4-3	-0.572
						O3-4-4	-0.538
						O3-5-1	-0.518
Sum	0.961	0.985	0.967				-2.913
$\Delta e$	0.039	0.015	0.033				0.087

**Table S6** The corresponding H-Bonds lengths (in angstroms), bond angles (in degrees) and interaction energies of (A-C) GGE-POM, (D-F) GGE-C4C1Im (G-I) GGE-OAc and (J-L) GGE-H<sub>2</sub>O.

Entry	H-bonds	Length	Angle	$\Delta E_1^a$	$\Delta E_2^a$	$\Delta \text{BSSE}^a$	$\Delta E_{2C}^a$	$\Delta E_{2CR}^a$
(A)	C3-H3...Ot1	2.40	130.58	-15.94	-21.81	6.14	-15.68	9.78
	C4-H4...Ot2	2.60	112.31					
(B)	C1'-H1'...Ot1	1.96	155.89	-24.89	-32.97	7.52	-25.45	0.00
	C3-H3...Ot2	2.49	151.83					
	C2'-H2'...Ot3	2.64	110.12					
(C)	C4-H4...Ot1	2.95	143.49	-23.23	-30.23	6.71	-23.52	1.93
	O $\alpha$ -H $\alpha$ ...Ot2	1.88	178.06					
	C3'-H3'...Ot3	2.53	153.22					
(D)	C2-H2...O $\beta$	2.35	125.05	-23.52	-19.67	1.64	-18.02	3.07
	C2-H2...O $\gamma$	2.34	136.55					
(E)	C1-H1...O $\gamma$	1.97	156.53	-26.12	-22.46	1.71	-20.75	0.27
	C2-H2...O $\gamma$	3.04	134.65					
(F)	C2-H2...O $\alpha$	2.07	163.66	-26.05	-22.73	1.83	-20.90	0.00
	C3-H3...O $\alpha$	2.99	139.21					
(G)	O $\alpha$ -H $\alpha$ ...Oa	1.68	166.07	-36.42	-31.62	1.66	-29.96	0.00
	C3-H3...Ob	2.24	158.69					
(H)	O $\gamma$ -H $\gamma$ ...Ob	1.78	162.59	-32.13	-26.54	2.02	-24.53	5.43
	C4-H4...Oa	2.25	149.50					
(I)	C2-H2...Ob	2.43	150.49	-31.51	-26.46	1.82	-24.64	5.32
	C4-H4...Oa	2.35	171.16					
	C4'-H4'...Ob	2.02	161.26					
(J)	O-H1...O $\alpha$	1.99	165.67	-9.40	-7.79	1.34	-6.45	0.09
	O...H3-C3	2.56	140.49					
(K)	O-H1...O $\beta$	1.95	151.74	-9.60	-7.72	1.19	-6.54	0.00
	O...H $\gamma$ -O $\gamma$	2.06	145.47					
(L)	O-H1...O $\gamma$	2.00	154.62	-8.82	-6.63	0.87	-5.76	0.77
	O...H2'-C2'	2.70	173.67					

<sup>a</sup>  $\Delta E_1$ ,  $\Delta E_2$ ,  $\Delta \text{BSSE}$ ,  $\Delta E_{2C}$  and  $\Delta E_{2CR}$  represent the interaction energies using M06L/6-31g\*\* (LANL2DZ basis sets on mental atoms), the interaction energies using M06L/def2-TZVP, the values of BSSE, the interaction energies ( $\Delta E_2$ ) corrected by BSSE and the relative interaction energies ( $\Delta E_{2C}$ ).

**Table S7** Changes in bond length (in angstroms) for GGE while it interacts with POM

Type of bonds	GGE	GGE-POM1	GGE-POM2	GGE-POM-3
C1-C2	1.50842	1.50648	1.50175	1.51493
C2-O $\alpha$	1.41980	1.43615	1.43170	1.43599
C2-C3	1.52384	1.51941	1.53147	1.54276
C3-C4	1.52463	1.51689	1.52356	1.52232
C4-O $\gamma$	1.40039	1.40430	1.40388	1.40164
C3-O $\beta$	1.43844	1.46091	1.45729	1.45019
O $\beta$ -C5	1.36791	1.35463	1.37310	1.37352

**Table S8** Energy decomposition of interaction energies (in kcal/mol) for GGE and POM, OAc, C4C1Im and H<sub>2</sub>O<sup>a</sup>.

Entry		$\Delta E_{\text{els}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{exe}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{ind}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{disp}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{tot}}$
(A)	GGE-POM	-30.15	37.53	-11.78	-30.25	-34.65
(B)	GGE-OAc	-42.54	39.39	-25.14	-9.79	-38.08
(C)	GGE-C4C1Im	-25.46	24.11	-9.23	-15.56	-26.14
(D)	GGE-H <sub>2</sub> O	-18.11	17.59	-4.29	-4.54	-9.35

<sup>a</sup>  $\Delta E_{\text{tot}} = \Delta E_{\text{els}} + \Delta E_{\text{exe}} + \Delta E_{\text{ind}} + \Delta E_{\text{disp}}$

**Table S9** The corresponding H-Bonds lengths (in angstroms), bond angles (in degrees) and interaction energies (in kcal/mol) of GGE-[C4C1Im]<sub>3</sub>[PW<sub>12</sub>O<sub>40</sub>] structures.

Entry	H-bonds	Length	Angle	$\Delta E_1^{\text{a}}$	$\Delta E_2^{\text{a}}$	$\Delta \text{BSSE}^{\text{a}}$	$\Delta E_{2C}^{\text{a}}$	$\Delta E_{2CR}^{\text{a}}$
(A)	C2-H2...Ot1	2.40	160.08	-181.90	-191.69	7.85	-183.83	0.68
	C3-H3...Ot2	2.44	162.02					
(B)	O1-H1...Ot1	3.31	100.49	-182.15	-191.21	7.32	-183.89	0.62
	C2-H2...Ot2	2.32	117.64					
(C)	O1-H1...Ot1	2.92	79.20	-183.52	-191.53	7.01	-184.51	0.00
	C2-H2...Ot2	2.78	174.77					
(D)	C2-H2...Ot1	2.46	123.62	-379.80	-393.97	6.62	-387.35	0.06
	C3-H3...Ot2	2.13	144.54					
	O1-H1...Ot3	2.75	85.71					
(E)	C3-H3...Ot1	2.78	157.11	-381.04	-396.13	8.72	-387.41	0.00
	C2-H2...Ot3	2.53	175.61					
	C4-H4...Ot2	2.42	121.18					
(F)	C3-H3...Ot2	2.52	163.38	-378.66	-393.66	6.92	-386.75	0.66
	C1-H1...Ot1	2.51	95.82					

<sup>a</sup>  $\Delta E_1$ ,  $\Delta E_2$ ,  $\Delta \text{BSSE}$ ,  $\Delta E_{2C}$  and  $\Delta E_{2CR}$  represent the interaction energies using M06L/6-31g\*\* (LANL2DZ basis sets on mental atoms), the interaction energies using M06L/def2-TZVP, the values of BSSE, the interaction energies ( $\Delta E_2$ ) corrected by BSSE and the relative interaction energies ( $\Delta E_{2C}$ ).

**Table S10** Changes in bond length (in angstroms) for GGE while more cations were introduced in the system corresponding to the structures of Fig. 5.

Type of bonds	GGE	A	B	C	D	E	F
C1-C2	1.50842	1.50986	1.50826	1.51874	1.51128	1.51196	1.50896
C2-O $\alpha$	1.41980	1.42137	1.41688	1.41777	1.42028	1.41667	1.41813
C2-C3	1.52384	1.53115	1.53027	1.53078	1.52446	1.52599	1.52439
C3-C4	1.52463	1.52189	1.52164	1.53528	1.52004	1.52318	1.52503
C4-O $\gamma$	1.40039	1.39587	1.39947	1.39001	1.40042	1.39924	1.39969
C3-O $\beta$	1.43844	1.44887	1.43452	1.43861	1.44981	1.44067	1.43329
O $\beta$ -C5	1.36791	1.37684	1.37278	1.37618	1.36647	1.36928	1.37323

**Table S11** The corresponding H-Bonds lengths (in angstroms), bond angles (in degrees) and interaction energies (in kcal/mol) of GGE-[C4C1Im][OAc] structures.

Entry	H-bonds	Length	Angle	$\Delta E_1^a$	$\Delta E_2^a$	$\Delta \text{BSSE}^a$	$\Delta E_{2C}^a$	$\Delta E_{2CR}^a$
(A)	O $\gamma$ -H $\gamma$ ...Oa	1.62	175.97	-132.96	-123.31	2.06	-121.25	7.44
	C2-H2...Ob	1.87	138.14					
	C2-H2...O $\gamma$	2.46	124.46					
(B)	O $\gamma$ -H $\gamma$ ...Oa	1.81	163.95	-140.90	-130.16	2.91	-127.25	1.44
	C2-H2...Oa	1.81	175.24					
(C)	O $\alpha$ -H $\alpha$ ...Oa	1.72	167.17	-141.06	-131.17	2.48	-128.70	0.00
	C2-H2...Oa	1.73	170.26					

<sup>a</sup>  $\Delta E_1$ ,  $\Delta E_2$ ,  $\Delta \text{BSSE}$ ,  $\Delta E_{2C}$  and  $\Delta E_{2CR}$  represent the interaction energies using M06L/6-31g\*\* (LANL2DZ basis sets on mental atoms), the interaction energies using M06L/def2-TZVP, the values of BSSE, the interaction energies ( $\Delta E_2$ ) corrected by BSSE and the relative interaction energies ( $\Delta E_{2C}$ ).