

## Supplementary Information

# Are we missing something when evaluating adsorbents for CO<sub>2</sub> capture at system level?

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### S1. Adsorption equilibrium models

Grand Canonical Monte Carlo (GCMC) simulations were performed to generate adsorption isotherms of CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>. The pressures and temperatures were chosen to cover operating conditions relevant to post-combustion carbon capture processes. The dual-site Langmuir-Freundlich isotherm parameters for the 15%CO<sub>2</sub>/85%N<sub>2</sub> binary mixture are provided in Tables S1a and S1b. The variables are the same as defined in the main paper (Eq. (8)) and in Eq. (S7) in this document.

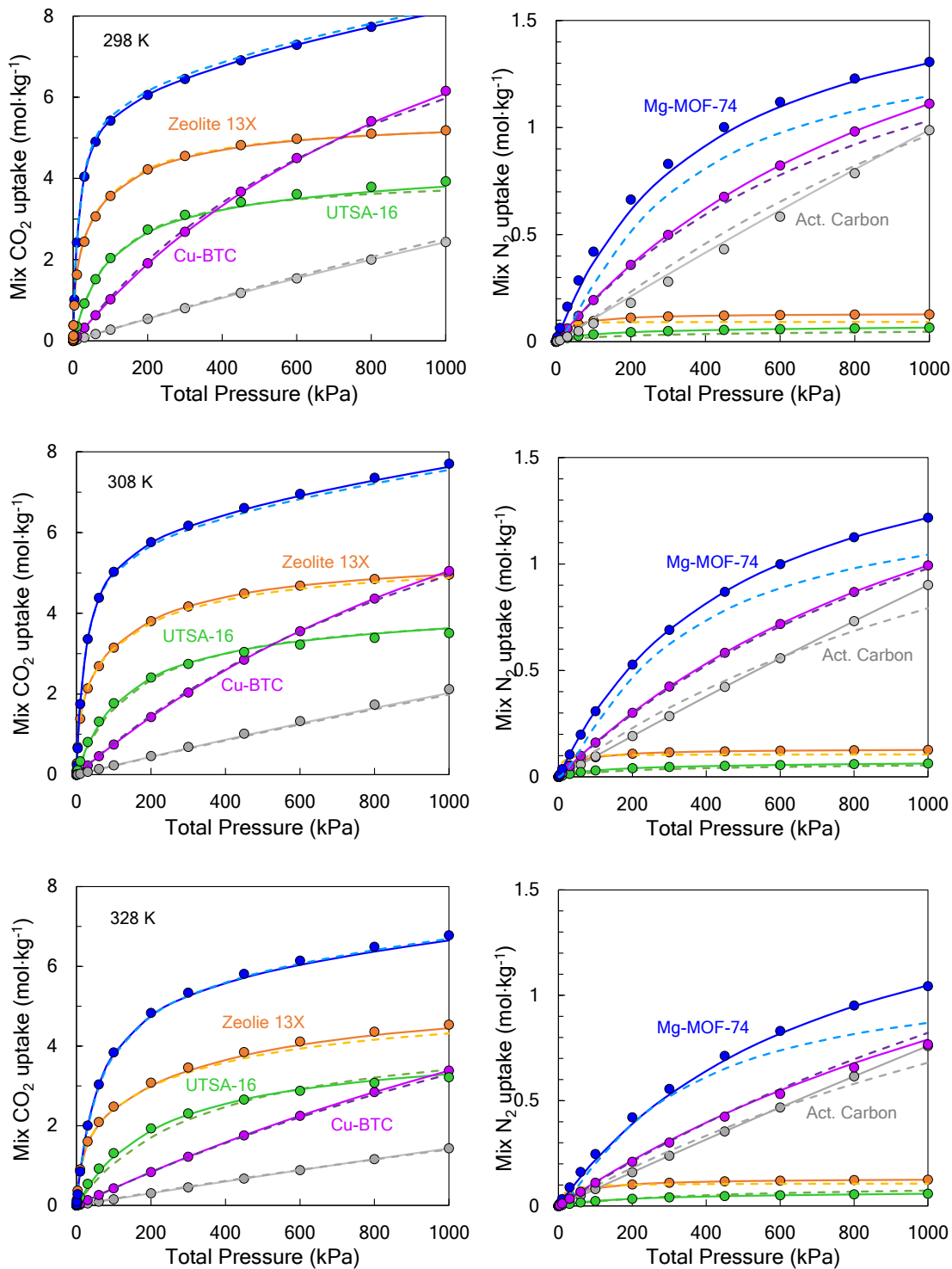
**Table S1a.** Temperature-dependent fit parameters for CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms in 15%CO<sub>2</sub>/85% N<sub>2</sub> binary mixture using a dual-site Langmuir-Freundlich model (273 K < T < 403 K, 0.01 kPa < P < 1200 kPa).

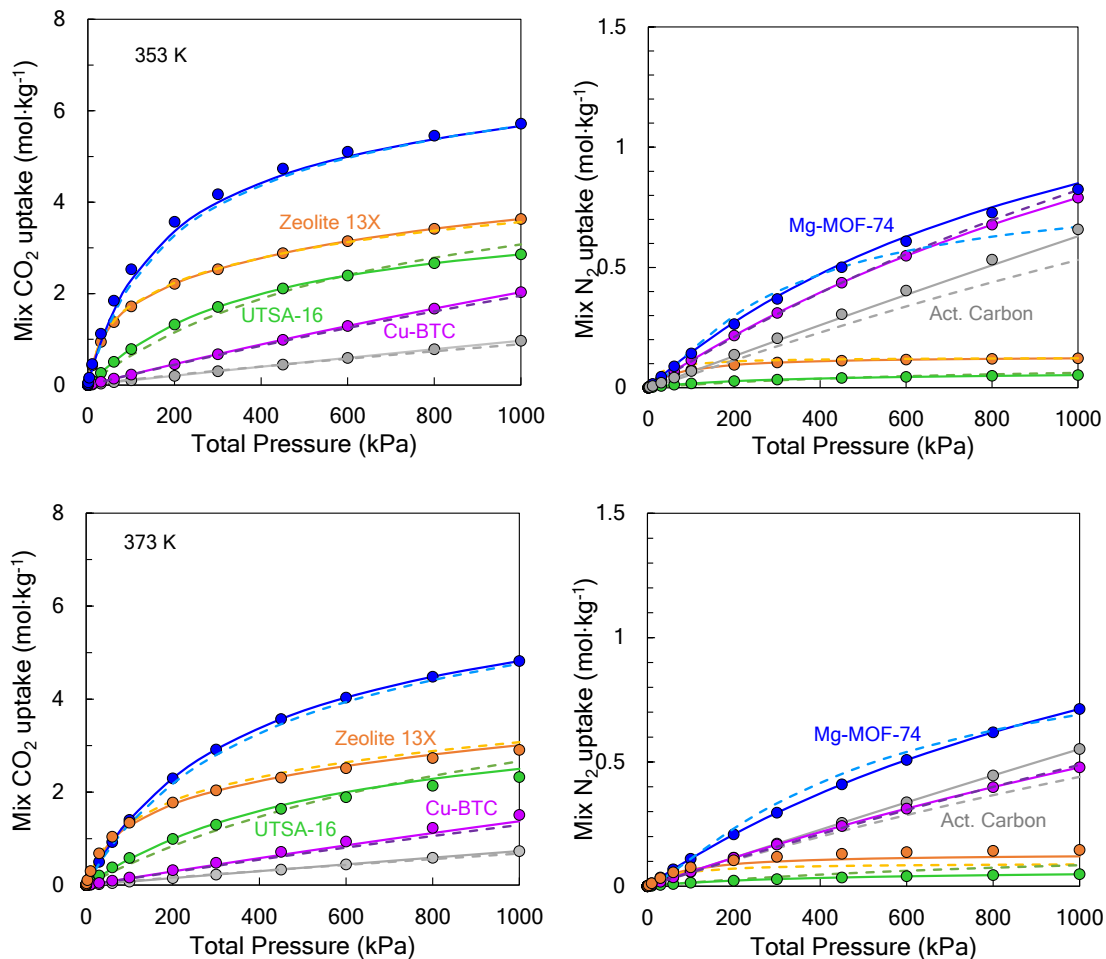
MATERIAL	q <sub>Sat,A</sub> (mol/kg)	b <sub>0A</sub> (kPa <sup>-1</sup> )	E <sub>A</sub> (J/mol)	v <sub>A</sub>	q <sub>Sat,B</sub> (mol/kg)	b <sub>0B</sub> (kPa <sup>-1</sup> )	E <sub>B</sub> (J/mol)	v <sub>B</sub>
Zeolite 13X (NaX)	1.9542	6.71 x10 <sup>-7</sup>	36500	1	3.5240	3.11 x10 <sup>-8</sup>	36000	1
Cu-BTC (HKUST-1)	13.4081	2.69 x10 <sup>-7</sup>	24500	1.01	0	0	0	0
Mg-MOF-74	5.8601	8.20 x10 <sup>-8</sup>	38500	1	9.0683	1.18 x10 <sup>-7</sup>	24500	1
UTSA-16	3.7623	7.48 x10 <sup>-6</sup>	22500	1.03	1.9567	1.13 x10 <sup>-7</sup>	23500	0.9878
Activated Carbon	18.7791	1.56 x10 <sup>-6</sup>	16000	1	18.1889	1.67 x10 <sup>-10</sup>	15000	1

**Table S1b.** Temperature-dependent fit parameters for N<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms in 15%CO<sub>2</sub>/85% N<sub>2</sub> binary mixture using a dual-site Langmuir-Freundlich model (273 K < T < 403 K, 0.01 kPa < P < 1200 kPa).

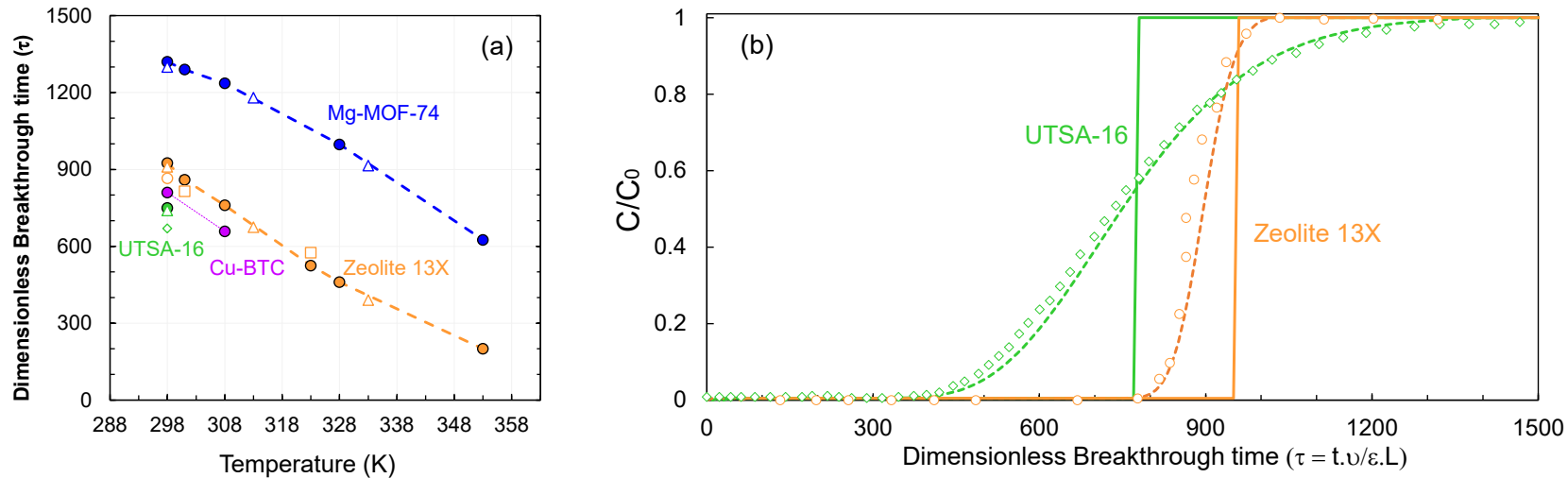
MATERIAL	q <sub>Sat,A</sub> (mol/kg)	b <sub>0A</sub> (kPa <sup>-1</sup> )	E <sub>A</sub> (J/mol)	v <sub>A</sub>	q <sub>Sat,B</sub> (mol/kg)	b <sub>0B</sub> (kPa <sup>-1</sup> )	E <sub>B</sub> (J/mol)	v <sub>B</sub>
Zeolite 13X (NaX)	0.1318	2.5129 x10 <sup>-4</sup>	12000	1	0	0	0	1
Cu-BTC (HKUST-1)	2.3419	2.0376 x10 <sup>-6</sup>	15500	1	0	0	0	1
Mg-MOF-74	2.0110	3.2891 x10 <sup>-6</sup>	16900	1	0	0	0	1
UTSA-16	0.0429	5.0828 x10 <sup>-6</sup>	12000	1	0.0534	9.6477 x10 <sup>-6</sup>	18500	1
Activated Carbon	7.6029	7.1974 x10 <sup>-6</sup>	7000	1	6.1644	1.2009 x10 <sup>-6</sup>	9500	1

For the binary mixture of 15 mol% CO<sub>2</sub> and 85 mol% N<sub>2</sub>, the amount of the gas phase components that can be adsorbed onto by the respective adsorbents are presented for selected temperatures in Figure S1. These are obtained using the Equation S7 with parameters provided in Tables S1a and S1b.





**Fig. S1.** Competitive loading capacities of CO<sub>2</sub> (left) and N<sub>2</sub> (right) as a function of temperature and total pressure for a binary mixture of 15 mol% CO<sub>2</sub> for different materials, using the fitted dual-site Langmuir-Freundlich model. [Symbols represent GCMC data (error bars are smaller than the symbols); competitive dual-site Langmuir (DSL) results are shown as dashed lines for comparative purposes].



**Fig. S2. (a).** Comparison of dimensionless breakthrough times for studied adsorbent materials at atmospheric pressure and different temperatures: filled symbols represent obtained values from GCMC data, empty triangles are calculated values from Krishna and van Baten<sup>1</sup>, empty diamonds correspond to experimental data from Masala et al.<sup>2</sup>, and empty circles are experimental data from Dantas et al.<sup>3</sup> **(b)** Validation of dimensionless breakthrough curves for zeolite 13X and UTSA-16, compared with experimental data (same symbols as in figure (a)): full lines represent calculated curves assuming plug flow in the model, and dashed lines were obtained after including the dispersion term and re-scaling for the use of binder in the adsorption columns. [Additional validation of adsorption isotherms can be found in our previous works<sup>4-6</sup>].

## S2. Dimensional form of VSA bed modelling system

The dimensional form of the pressure/vacuum swing adsorption process is presented in Tables S2 and S3.

**Table S2.** Model equations for the P/VSA process

Component material balance

$$\frac{\partial y_i}{\partial t} = D_z \frac{T}{P} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( y_i \frac{P}{T} \right) \right) - \frac{y_i \partial P}{P \partial t} + \frac{y_i \partial T}{T \partial t} - \frac{T}{P} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( y_i u \frac{P}{T} \right) - \frac{RT(1 - \varepsilon_b)}{P \varepsilon_b} \rho_p \left( \frac{\partial q_i}{\partial t} \right) \quad (S1)$$

(Overall material balance

$$\frac{1 \partial P}{P \partial t} = \frac{1 \partial T}{T \partial t} - \frac{T}{P} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{u P}{T} \right) - \frac{RT(1 - \varepsilon_b)}{P \varepsilon_b} \rho_p \sum_1^{N_{comp}} \frac{\partial q_i}{\partial t} \quad (S2)$$

Energy balance equation

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{1 - \varepsilon_b}{\varepsilon_b} \right) \left( \rho_p C_{p,p} + \rho_p C_{p,a} \sum_i q_i \right) \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} \\ & = \frac{K_z \partial^2 T}{\varepsilon_b \partial z^2} - \frac{C_{p,g} \partial (u \cdot P)}{R \partial z} - \frac{C_{p,g} \partial P}{R \partial t} - \left( \frac{1 - \varepsilon_b}{\varepsilon_b} \right) \rho_p C_{p,a} T \sum_1^{N_{comp}} \frac{\partial q_i}{\partial t} - \left( \frac{1 - \varepsilon_b}{\varepsilon_b} \right) \rho_p \sum_1^{N_{comp}} \left( (\Delta H)_{a,i} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right. \\ & \left. \frac{2h_i}{\varepsilon_b r_i} (T - T_w) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (S3)$$

Column wall energy balance equation

$$\rho_w C_{p,w} \frac{\partial T_w}{\partial t} = K_w \frac{\partial^2 T_w}{\partial z^2} + \frac{2h_i r_i}{r_o^2 - r_i^2} (T - T_w) - \frac{2h_o r_o}{r_o^2 - r_i^2} (T_w - T_a) \quad (S4)$$

Pressure drop profile

$$-\frac{\partial P}{\partial z} = \frac{150 \mu u (1 - \varepsilon_b)^2}{d_p^2 \varepsilon_b} \quad (S5)$$

Linear driving force (LDF) approximation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial q_i}{\partial t} & = k_i (q_i^* - q_i) \\ k_i & = \frac{c_i}{q_i^*} \frac{60 \varepsilon_b D_p}{d_p^2} \end{aligned} \quad (S6)$$

Adsorption isotherm equation

$$q_i^* = \frac{q_{i,sat,A} b_{i,A} P_i^{v_{i,A}}}{1 + b_{i,A} P_i^{v_{i,A}}} + \frac{q_{i,sat,B} b_{i,B} P_i^{v_{i,B}}}{1 + b_{i,B} P_i^{v_{i,B}}} \quad (S7)$$

$$b_{i,A} = b_{0i,A} \exp\left(\frac{E_{i,A}}{RT}\right); \quad b_{i,B} = b_{0i,B} \exp\left(\frac{E_{i,B}}{RT}\right)$$

Diffusion/hydrodynamic equation

$$D_p = \frac{D_M}{\tau_p} \quad (S8)$$

$$D_z = 0.7D_M + 0.5u_f d_p$$

**Table S3.** Boundary conditions used for studied P/VSA process.

	$z = 0$	$z = L$	
<b>Pressurization</b>			
	$D_z \frac{\partial y_i}{\partial z} = -u(y_{f,i} - y_i)$	$\frac{\partial y_i}{\partial z} = 0$	(S9a)
	$P(t) = P_{ads} - (P_{ads} - P_{evac})e^{-\lambda_p t}$	$u = 0$	(S9b)
	$K_Z \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} = -\varepsilon_b u \rho_g C_{pg}(T_f - T)$	$\frac{\partial T}{\partial z} = 0$	(S9c)
	$T_w = T_a$	$T_w = T_a$	(S9d)
<b>Adsorption</b>			
	$D_z \frac{\partial y_i}{\partial z} = -u(y_{f,i} - y_i)$	$\frac{\partial y_i}{\partial z} = 0$	(S10a)
	$u = u_f$	$P = P_{ads}$	(S10b)
	$K_Z \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} = -\varepsilon_b u \rho_g C_{pg}(T_f - T)$	$\frac{\partial T}{\partial z} = 0$	(S10c)
	$T_w = T_a$	$T_w = T_a$	(S10d)
<b>Blowdown</b>			
	$\frac{\partial y_i}{\partial z} = 0$	$\frac{\partial y_i}{\partial z} = 0$	(S11a)
	$u = 0$	$P(t) = P_{bd} + (P_{ads} - P_{bd})e^{-\lambda_{bd} t}$	(S11b)
	$\frac{\partial T}{\partial z} = 0$	$\frac{\partial T}{\partial z} = 0$	(S11c)
	$T_w = T_a$	$T_w = T_a$	(S11d)
<b>Evacuation</b>			
	$\frac{\partial y_i}{\partial z} = 0$	$\frac{\partial y_i}{\partial z} = 0$	(S12a)
	$P(t) = P_{evac} + (-P_{evac})e^{-\lambda_{evac} t}$	$u = 0$	(S12b)

	$z = 0$	$z = L$	
	$\frac{\partial T}{\partial z} = 0$	$\frac{\partial T}{\partial z} = 0$	(S12c)
	$T_w = T_a$	$T_w = T_a$	(S12d)

The dimensionless groups contained in the main manuscript are defined below.

$$Pe = \frac{u_0 L}{D_z} \quad (S13)$$

$$Pe_H = \frac{\varepsilon_b u_0 L}{\left( \frac{K_z}{\rho_g C_{pg}} \right)} \quad (S14)$$

$$\varphi = \rho_p \frac{RT_0 q_{s,0} (1 - \varepsilon_b)}{P_0 \varepsilon_b} \quad (S15)$$

$$\Omega_1 = \frac{\left( \frac{K_z}{\varepsilon_b u_0 L} \right)}{\frac{1 - \varepsilon_b}{\varepsilon_b} \left( \rho_p C_{p,p} + \rho_p C_{p,a} q_{s,0} \sum_1^{Ncomp} x_i \right)} \quad (S16)$$

$$\Omega_2 = \frac{\left( \frac{C_{pg} P_0}{R T_0} \right)}{\frac{1 - \varepsilon_b}{\varepsilon_b} \left( \rho_p C_{p,p} + \rho_p C_{p,a} q_{s,0} \sum_1^{Ncomp} x_i \right)} \quad (S17)$$

$$\Omega_3 = \frac{\rho_p C_{p,a} q_{s,0}}{\left( \rho_p C_{p,p} + \rho_p C_{p,a} q_{s,0} \sum_1^{Ncomp} x_i \right)} \quad (S18)$$

$$\Omega_{4,i} = \frac{\rho_p \frac{q_{s,0}}{T_0} (\Delta H_i)}{\left( \rho_p C_{p,p} + \rho_p C_{p,a} q_{s,0} \sum_1^{Ncomp} x_i \right)} \quad (S19)$$



$$\Omega_5 = \frac{\left(\frac{2h_i L}{r_i u_0}\right)}{(1 - \varepsilon_b) \left( \rho_p C_{p,p} + \rho_p C_{p,a} q_{s,0} \sum_1^{Ncomp} x_i \right)} \quad (\text{S20})$$

$$\pi_1 = \frac{K_w}{\rho_w C_{pw} u_0 L} \quad (\text{S21})$$

$$\pi_2 = \frac{2r_i h_i L}{r_o^2 - r_i^2 \rho_w C_{pw} u_0} \quad (\text{S22})$$

$$\pi_3 = \frac{2r_0 h_0 L}{r_o^2 - r_i^2 \rho_w C_{pw} u_0} \quad (\text{S23})$$

### S3. Economic modelling

The purchased costs of the equipment are estimated using the cost correlations outlined in <sup>7-9</sup>.

**Table S4.** Instrument cost and costing factor<sup>8</sup> for equipment types considered in this study.

	<b>Instrumentation cost (US \$)<sup>a</sup></b>	$PC_f$	$IC_f$	<b>Material of construction<sup>b</sup></b>
Compressor	2,500	1.35	2.5	Cast steel
Heat exchanger (cooler)	9,750	1.0	2.5	CS/CS
Cooling water pump	2,500	1.35	2.5	Cast steel
Adsorption column	44,250	1.7	2.5	SS
Vacuum pump (with motors)	2,500	1.0	2.5	CS
Control valves	–	1.0	–	CS

<sup>a</sup> Instrumentation costs presented are estimated in 2004

<sup>b</sup> CS – carbon steel, and SS – stainless steel 304.  $PC_f$  and  $IC_f$  represent purchase cost and instrumentation cost factors, and are dependent on the material of construction.

The total capital cost of the capture plant and compression train can be estimated using the sequential approach as highlighted in Table S5.<sup>10</sup> The average Chemical Engineering Process Cost Index (CEPCI) was used to obtain their corresponding costs values dated to 2019 using Equation S24.

$$\frac{Cost_{2019}}{Cost_{base\ year}} = \frac{CEPCI_{2019}}{CEPCI_{base\ year}} \quad (S24)$$

**Table S5.** Elements in calculating total capital cost of capture plant<sup>8,10,11</sup>

<b>Elements</b>	<b>Value</b>
Purchased equipment cost (E)	$E_i \forall i = 1, \dots, n$
Instrument cost (I)	$I_i \forall i = 1, \dots, n$
Direct equipment cost (DEC)	$\sum_i^n PC_{f,i} E_i + \sum_i^n IC_{f,i} I_i$
Indirect equipment cost (IEC)	$31\% \times DEC$
Inside Battery Limit Investment (ISBL)	$DEC + IEC$
Off sites (OS)	$31\% \times ISBL$
Process unit investment (PUI)	$ISBL + OS$
Engineering (Eng)	$12\% \times PUI$
Paid-up royalties (PUR)	$7\% \times ISBL$
Facility capital cost (FCC)	$PUI + Eng. + PUR$
Interest during construction	Interest rate $\times$ FCC
Start-up cost	1 month of Total operating cost
Total capital cost (CAPEX)	$FCC + Interest + Start-up\ cost$
Working capital (WC)	1 month of Total operating cost

Table S6 presents the main elements of the operating and maintenance cost. The variable cost comprises utilities consumption (mainly electricity and cooling water) and adsorbent replacement cost. The fixed component of the operating and maintenance cost consists of the cost for labour, maintenance, insurance, and overheads.<sup>10</sup>

**Table S6.** Elements for capture plant operating and maintenance cost estimation<sup>10</sup>

<b>Elements</b>	<b>Value</b>
Electricity	\$ 0.08/kWh
Cooling water	\$ 0.02/m <sup>3</sup>
Steam	\$ 1.4/GJ [1]
Utilities (U)	Electricity + Cooling water + steam
Adsorbent replacement cost (ARC)	Adsorber packing cost / Replacement rate
Variable cost (VC)	$U + ARC$
Labour cost (L) <sup>a</sup>	$\frac{\$ 3,022,200}{year}$ <sup>12</sup>
Maintenance (M)	$4\% \times PUI$
Taxes and insurance (T&I)	$2\% \times PUI$
Overhead (OH)	$1\% \times PUI$
Financial working capital (FWC)	$9\% \times WC$
Fixed operating and maintenance (FOM)	$L + M + T\&I + OH + FWC$

<sup>a</sup> A labour unit of \$ 34.50/hour is used, and the total labour cost includes 10% for supervision.

The physical properties and unit cost of the five (5) studied adsorbents are presented in Table S7. These materials include zeolite 13X,<sup>13,14</sup> MOFs Cu-BTC,<sup>15–18</sup> Mg-MOF-74,<sup>15,18–20</sup> ,UTSA-16,<sup>2,18,21,22</sup> and activated carbon.<sup>23–25</sup> The unit cost of zeolite 13X was obtained from [3,6]; and that of MOFs was assumed to be \$10/kg. All materials were assumed to degrade at same rate. The tortuosity factor is estimated as a function of the particle void fraction as presented in Farmahini *et al.*<sup>26</sup>

**Table S7.** Properties of different adsorbents used in this study<sup>2,14–27</sup>

<b>Properties</b>	<b>Zeolite 13X</b>	<b>MOF Cu-BTC</b>	<b>Mg-MOF-74</b>	<b>MOF UTSA-16</b>	<b>Activated carbon</b>
Voidage	0.350	0.745	0.518	0.514	0.52
Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	1130	948.8	914.88	1659	990.0
Diameter (mm)	2.60	0.015	0.014	2.0	0.105
Pore diameter (nm)	1.0	3.3	1.0	1.18	1.39
Heat capacity (J/kg.K)	1070	760	896	1000	844
Replacement rate (year)	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Unit cost (\$/kg)	0.50	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.3

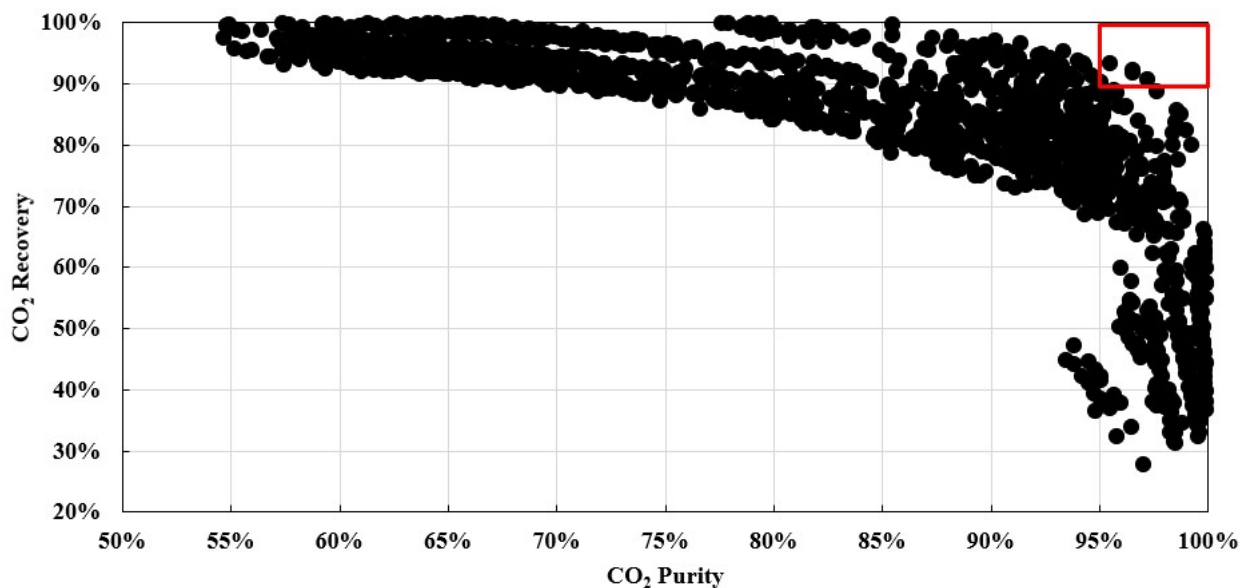
<sup>a</sup> The replacement rates are taken as that of zeolite 13X [6]

The assumptions made in the cost estimation of the solid-based carbon capture plant are as follows:

- Nitrogen oxides, sulphur oxides and water have been removed from the flue gas prior to feed into the capture plant. Thus, the capture cost does not include the cost of dehydration and for the removal of these gases.
- The capture plant operates for 350 days in a year.
- The capture plant is discounted at a rate of 5% and has a lifetime of 15 years

#### S4. GSA-based optimization of P/VSA processes with different adsorbents

Fig. S3 illustrates the trade-off between purity and recovery as obtained from the GSA-base process optimization for the base case material (*i.e.*, zeolite 13X). The region enveloped by a red rectangle signifies process conditions that meet the 90/95 recovery-purity target. Similar results are obtained for other materials and the lowest cost process conditions set is selected within this region (90/95 target) or near the DOE target for detailed techno-economic assessment towards a low-cost industrial scale CO<sub>2</sub> capture and compression.



**Fig. S3.** Pareto plots of purity-recovery for zeolite 13X obtained from the GSA-based process optimization

The distribution of the investment and operating costs for the optimized performance of the different materials is presented in Table S8.

**Table S8.** Distribution of the ISBL and variable costs between components of the carbon capture plant and compression train for optimized performance of different adsorbents

	<b>Zeolite 13Xv</b>	<b>Cu-BTC</b>	<b>Mg-MOF- 74v</b>	<b>UTSA- 16</b>	<b>Activated carbon</b>	<b>Zeolite 13Xp</b>	<b>Mg-MOF- 74p</b>
<b>Total Investment Cost</b>							
Feed blower and motors	15.10%	31.70%	7.62%	7.67%	36.37%	45.68%	41.15%
Feed heat exchangers	0.24%	0.54%	0.07%	0.51%	0.28%	0.15%	0.12%
Cooling water pumps	0.15%	0.26%	0.04%	0.18%	0.20%	0.20%	0.17%
Adsorption columns	17.69%	19.11%	17.25%	31.17%	3.54%	7.40%	5.04%
Blowdown vacuum pumps	10.06%	8.10%	38.96%	4.23%	25.30%	9.87%	17.08%
Evacuation vacuum pumps	18.00%	11.64%	18.48%	21.39%	18.88%	12.91%	20.15%
Control valves	6.69%	4.17%	1.36%	6.81%	0.49%	2.16%	0.48%
Post capture compressors	30.96%	23.60%	15.95%	26.78%	14.86%	21.19%	15.65%
Interstage coolers	1.11%	0.88%	0.28%	1.26%	0.09%	0.44%	0.16%
<b>TOTAL (US M\$)</b>	<b>334.866</b>	<b>358.750</b>	<b>548.314</b>	<b>439.02 7</b>	<b>383.234</b>	<b>432.263</b>	<b>386.365</b>
<b>Total Operating Cost</b>							
Feed blower and motors	25.41%	41.16%	13.70%	10.08%	55.81%	58.58%	54.90%
Feed heat exchangers	0.21%	0.91%	0.14%	0.20%	1.26%	0.94%	0.91%
Cooling water pumps	0.15%	0.66%	0.10%	0.15%	0.92%	0.69%	0.66%
Adsorption columns	4.03%	20.36%	31.15%	42.89%	0.80%	1.25%	6.19%
Blowdown vacuum pumps	3.18%	0.44%	7.54%	0.49%	0.91%	1.67%	0.32%
Evacuation vacuum pumps	27.32%	14.68%	21.21%	20.92%	18.41%	15.07%	16.24%
Post capture compressors	39.03%	21.41%	25.71%	24.81%	21.48%	21.44%	20.42%
Interstage coolers	0.67%	0.38%	0.44%	0.46%	0.41%	0.37%	0.36%
<b>TOTAL (US M\$/yr)</b>	<b>94.672</b>	<b>120.642</b>	<b>144.012</b>	<b>133.24 9</b>	<b>119.151</b>	<b>158.661</b>	<b>137.828</b>

## S5. Correlation between molecular-based metrics and process performance

We carried out a correlation analysis of several material-centric metrics<sup>27–32</sup> presented in Equation S25 – S30 together with those already mentioned in the main manuscript. The results of the Pearson’s correlation coefficient analysis are presented in Table S9. All working capacities and selectivities considered are those obtained from competitive adsorption and not of pure species.

$$\text{Notaro's AFM} = \Delta n_{CO_2} \cdot \frac{S_{CO_2}|_{ads}^2}{S_{CO_2}|_{evac}} \quad (\text{S25})$$

$$\text{Rege's AFM} = \frac{\Delta n_{CO_2}}{\Delta n_{N_2}} \cdot \frac{S_{CO_2}|_{ads}^2}{S_{CO_2}|_{evac}} \quad (\text{S26})$$

$$\text{Adsorption Performance Indicator} = \frac{(S_{CO_2}|_{ads} - 1) \cdot \Delta n_{CO_2}}{|\Delta H_{ads,CO_2}|} \quad (\text{S27})$$

$$\text{Selection Parameter} = \frac{\Delta n_{CO_2}}{\Delta n_{N_2}} \cdot S_{CO_2}|_{ads} \quad (\text{S28})$$

$$\text{Separation Factor} = \frac{\Delta n_{CO_2}}{\Delta n_{N_2}} \cdot \frac{y_{N_2}|_{feed}}{y_{CO_2}|_{feed}} \quad (\text{S29})$$

$$\text{Relative Selectivity} = \frac{S_{CO_2}|_{ads}}{S_{CO_2}|_{evac}} \quad (\text{S30})$$

$$\text{Modified AFM} = \Delta n_{CO_2}^a \cdot \Delta n_{N_2}^b \cdot S_{CO_2}^c|_{ads} \cdot S_{CO_2}^d|_{evac} \quad (\text{S31})$$

This is a more general form of Eqs. S25, S25, S26, S28 and S30. If  $a = 1$ ,  $b = -1$ ,  $c = 2$  and  $d = -1$ , then this proposed parameter is the same as Rege’s AFM. If  $b=0$ , then it is Notaro’s AFM, etc.. The correlation coefficients are obtained as the Pearson correlation coefficients between two

variables (e.g., working capacity and purity as defined by first numerical cell in Table S9). With the first variable (as array of a molecular-based metric of all materials at optimized process conditions) as  $x$  and second variable (as array of a KPI value of all materials at optimized process conditions) as  $y$ , the correlation coefficient,  $r_{xy}$  is estimated as:

$$r_{xy} = \frac{\sum (x - \bar{x})(y - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum (x - \bar{x})^2 (y - \bar{y})^2}}$$

where  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  are the sample averages of  $x$  and  $y$  respectively.

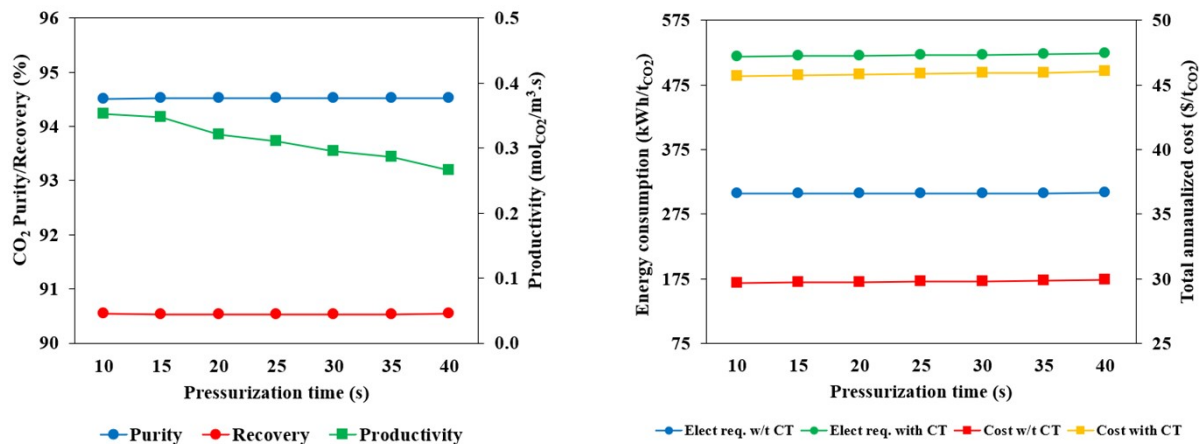
**Table S9.** The correlation coefficients of different molecular-based metrics to KPIs of process performance for optimized conditions of the different materials. Modified AFM is first introduced in this study and gives good correlations with all KPIs. SER, TAC and CT represents specific energy requirement, total annualized cost and compression train respectively.

	Purity	Recovery	Productivity	SER without CT	SER with CT	TAC without CT	TAC with CT
Working Capacity	0.20	-0.30	<b>0.76</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>0.72</b>	<b>0.50</b>	0.39
Adsorption Selectivity	-0.15	<b>0.57</b>	-0.40	-0.45	-0.44	-0.38	-0.28
Evacuation Selectivity	-0.40	<b>0.56</b>	-0.32	<b>-0.60</b>	<b>-0.59</b>	<b>-0.51</b>	-0.40
Notaro's AFM	0.19	<b>0.51</b>	-0.27	-0.06	-0.06	-0.07	-0.01
Rege's AFM	<b>-0.57</b>	0.40	-0.14	<b>-0.54</b>	<b>-0.56</b>	-0.16	-0.09
Adsorption Performance Indicator	0.29	<b>0.52</b>	-0.12	0.15	0.14	0.01	0.04
Selection Parameter	0.00	<b>0.58</b>	-0.28	-0.20	-0.20	-0.17	-0.10
Separation Factor	-0.27	<b>0.55</b>	-0.31	-0.44	-0.45	-0.28	-0.19
Relative Selectivity	<b>0.64</b>	0.42	-0.27	0.30	0.31	-0.07	-0.04
SER without CT	<b>0.62</b>	-0.06	<b>0.68</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>0.58</b>	0.48
Modified AFM *	<b>-0.52</b>	<b>0.55</b>	-0.45	<b>-0.74</b>	<b>-0.72</b>	<b>-0.77</b>	<b>-0.68</b>

\* where a = -2.4549, b = 0.1072, c = 0.0998, and d = 1.5489 upon parameter fitting

## S6. Effect of pressurization time on P/VSA performance

As proposed in the case study presented in this work, the effect of varying the pressurization time is hereby presented in Fig. S4.



**Fig. S4.** Effect of duration of pressurization time step on process performance for optimized 13X PVSA operation. CT represents compression train after capture

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