

Figure S1. a-b SEM and TEM images of graphite oxide powder.

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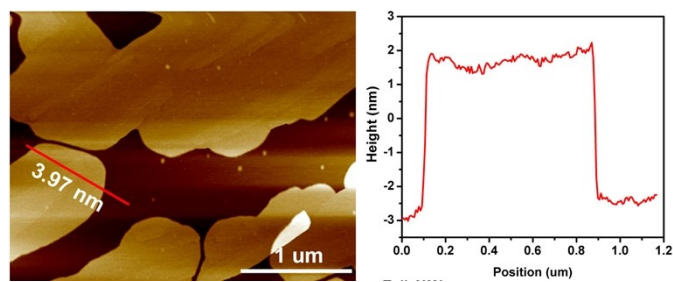


Figure S2. AFM image of tert-GO.

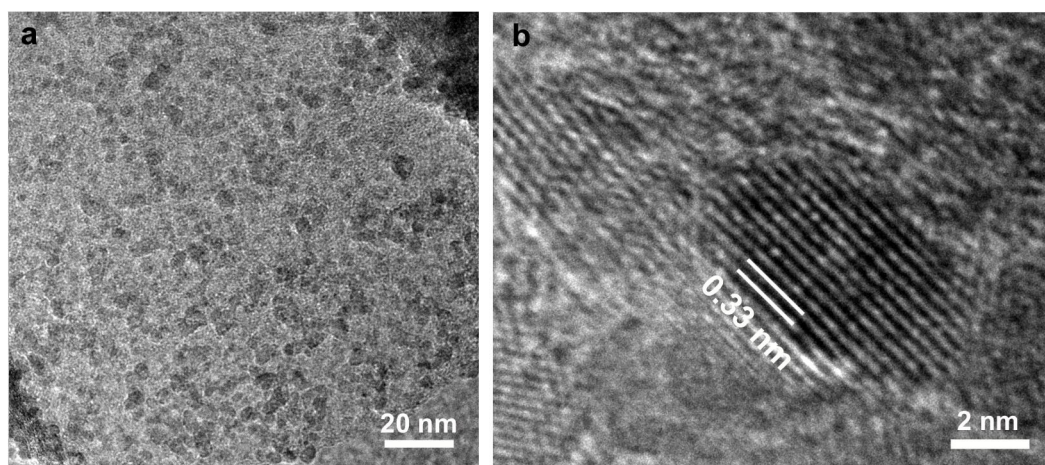


Figure S3. a TEM image of SnO₂/tert-GO catalysts. b A higher magnification STEM image of SnO₂/tert-GO.

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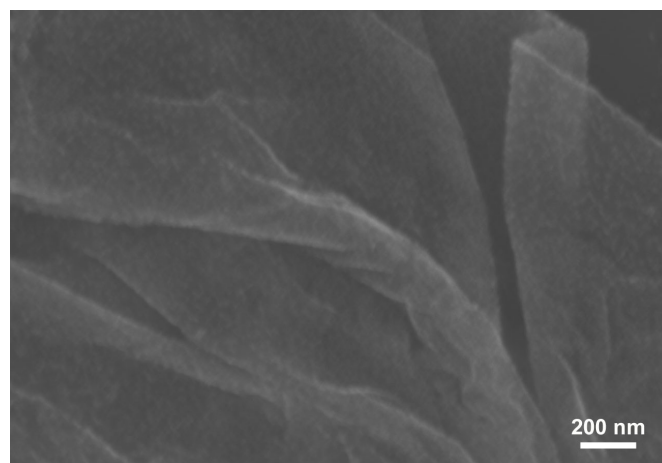


Figure S4. SEM image of SnO₂/tert-GO.

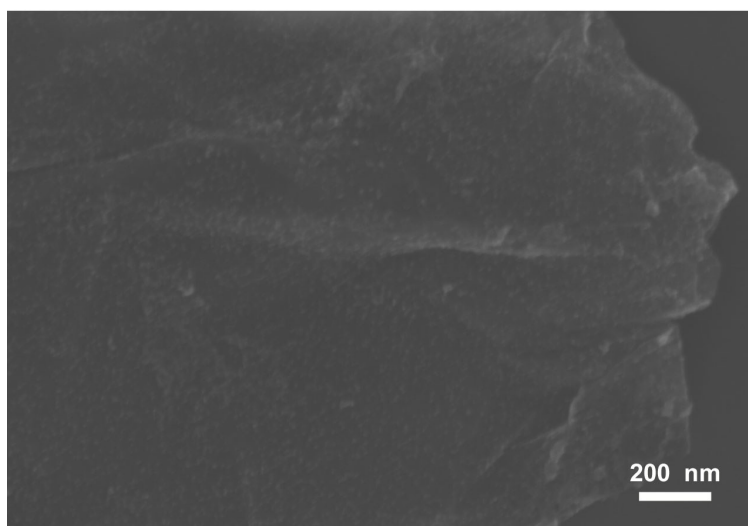


Figure S5. SEM image of SnO₂/GO.

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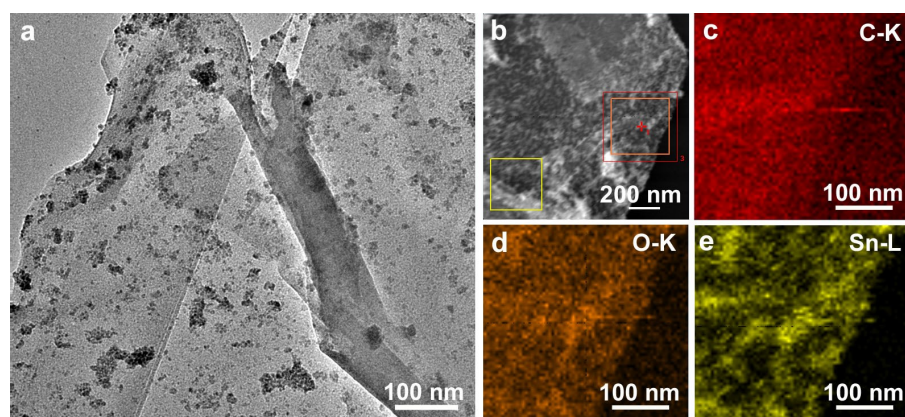


Figure S6 a TEM bright-field image of SnO₂/GO catalysts. b A higher magnification STEM image of SnO₂/GO catalysts. c-e the X-EDS mappings of SnO₂/GO catalysts.

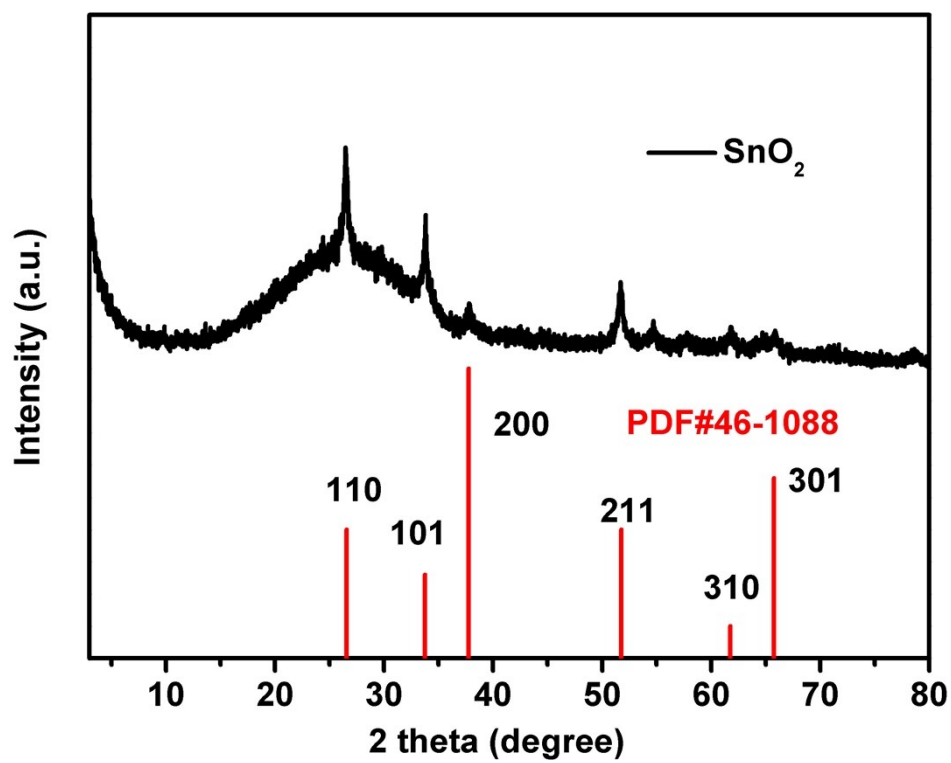


Figure S7. XRD pattern of SnO₂ catalyst.

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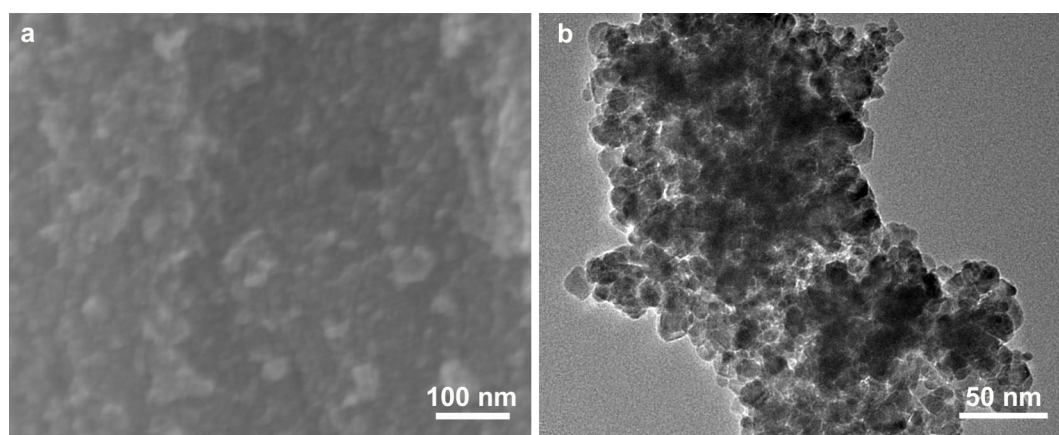


Figure S8. a-b SEM and TEM images of SnO₂.

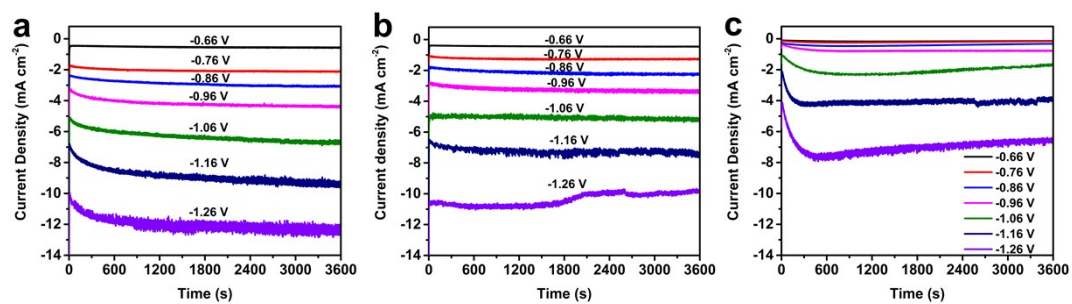


Figure S9. a-c Chronoamperometric curves of SnO₂/tert-GO, SnO₂/GO and SnO₂ at different applied potentials as indicated.

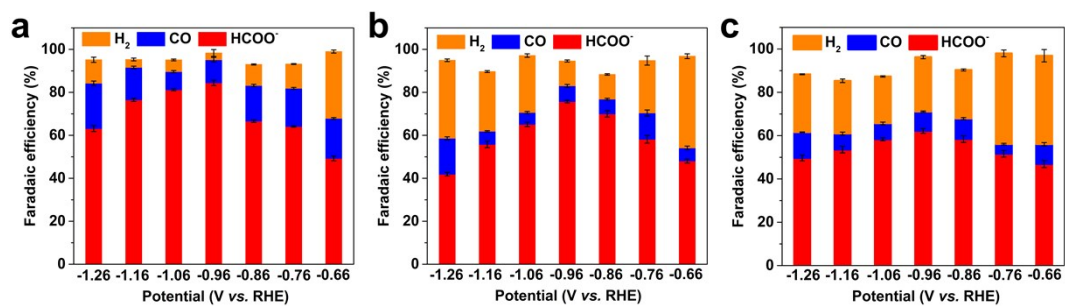


Figure S10. a-c HCOO⁻, CO and H₂ Faradaic efficiency for SnO₂/tert-GO, SnO₂/GO and SnO₂ at different applied potentials. During 1 h electrolysis, 0.1 M KHCO₃ aqueous solution electrolyte at the cathodic part was under continuously mild stir and bubbled with CO₂ at the speed of 20 ml min⁻¹.

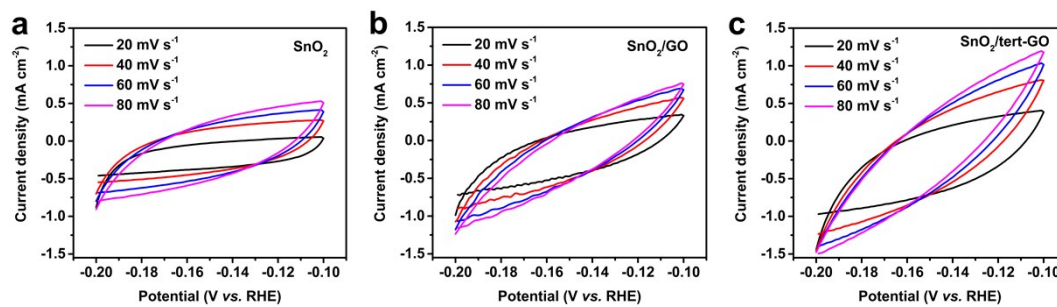


Figure S11. Cyclic voltammograms (CVs) of a) SnO₂/tert-GO, b) SnO₂/GO and c) SnO₂ between -0.2 V and -0.1 V vs. RHE in CO₂-saturated 0.1 M KHCO₃.

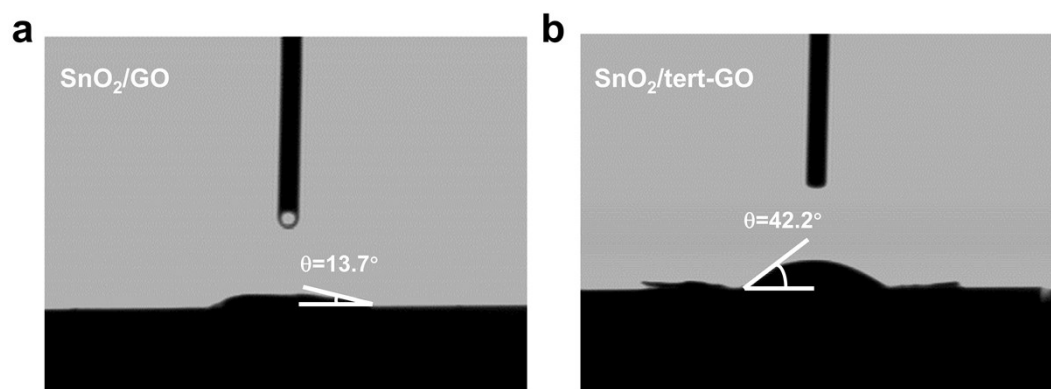


Figure S12. Contact Angle test diagrams of SnO₂/GO (a), and SnO₂/tert-GO (b).

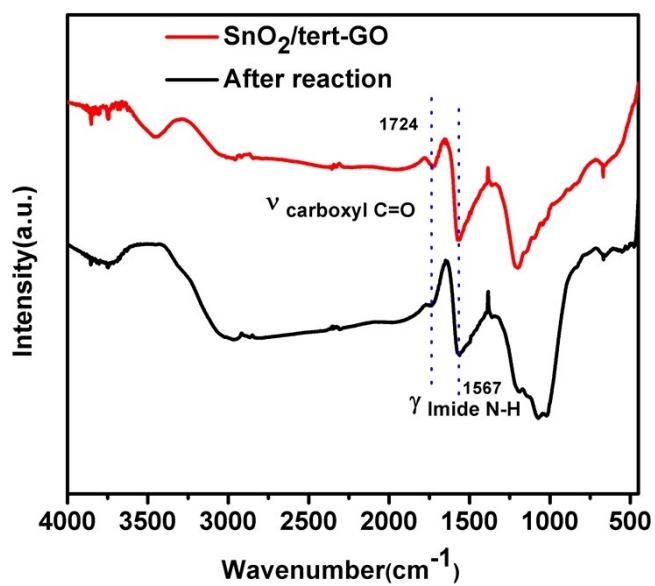


Figure S13. FTIR of SnO₂/tert-GO and SnO₂/tert-GO after reaction.

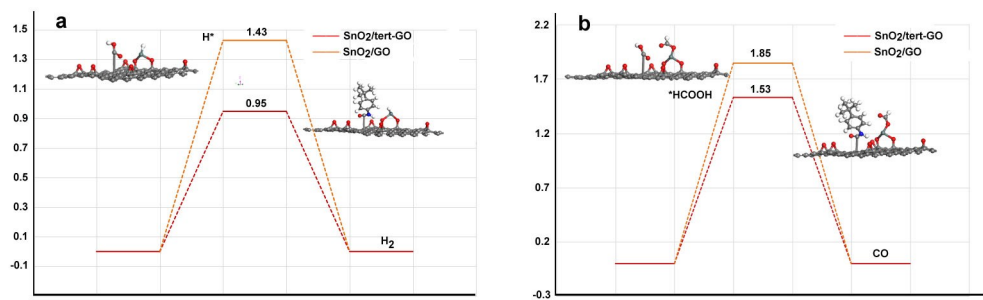


Figure S14. Theoretical calculation of conversion of CO₂ to CO and HER reaction

Table S1. Performance comparison of different metal-based electrocatalysts for CO₂ reduction to formate from recent literature.

Electrocatalysts	Electrolyte	Formate FE _{max}	<i>j</i> _{HCOO⁻} at FE _{max}	Ref.
SnO ₂ -tert-GO	0.1 M KHCO ₃	84.9%@-0.96 V vs. RHE	3.7 mA cm ⁻²	This work
Sn/SnOx thin flm	0.5 M NaHCO ₃	40%@-0.7 V vs. RHE	1.6 mA cm ⁻²	S1
Bi nanoflake	0.1 M KHCO ₃	≈100%@-0.6 V vs. RHE	1.0 mA cm ⁻²	S2
Hierarchical Bi dendrite	0.5 M KHCO ₃	≈89%@-0.74 V vs. RHE	2.4 mA cm ⁻²	S3
BiOx/C	0.5 M NaHCO ₃	92.1%@-1.37 V vs. Ag/AgCl	1.35 mA cm ⁻²	S4
Sulfide-derived Bi	0.5 M NaHCO ₃	84%@-0.75 V vs. RHE	4.2 mA cm ⁻²	S5
Sn-CF1000	0.1 M KHCO ₃	62%@-0.8 V vs. RHE	11 mA cm ⁻²	S6
Nano-SnO ₂ /graphene	0.1 M KHCO ₃	93.6%@-1.8 V vs. SCE	9.5 mA cm ⁻²	S7
SnO ₂ pNWs	0.1 M KHCO ₃	80%@-0.8 V vs. RHE	4.8 mA cm ⁻²	S8
Dendritic indium foams	0.5 M KHCO ₃	86%@-0.86 V vs. RHE	5.0 mA cm ⁻²	S9

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