1	Supporting Information for Journal of Materials Chemistry A
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3	An Integrated Solar Evaporators with Multilevel Hierarchy and Multifunctional
4	Properties for Efficient and Salt Fouling-Resistant Desalination
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19	This file includes:
20	1. Supplementary Notes 1 (Devices for solar desalination and solar recovery tests)
21	2. Supplementary Notes 2 (Devices for recycling freshwater from real seawater and wastewater)
22	3. Supplementary Notes 3 (Cost analysis)
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26 1. Supplementary notes 1 (Devices for solar desalination and solar recovery tests)

Solar desalination performance can be deeply influenced by thermal management and water transport. Here, two devices were designed to figure out the importance of thermal management and water transport. The schematic of the two devices is shown in **Figure S3a-b**. Setup 1 is similar to most state-of-the-art solar evaporation devices, the solar absorber material directly floats on the bulk water. The second setup has a heat-insulating layer made up of polystyrene foam wrapped by a hydrophilic cellulose paper put under the solar absorber. A solar absorber of 10 mm in thickness and 40 mm inside length is used to evaluate the solar desalination performance of the above two devices.

The solar desalination performance of the solar absorber is represented by the mass change of water under 1 sun illumination over time. The typical results of time-dependent mass change under 1 sun (1 kW m⁻²) are given in **Figure S3c**. As the graph shows, the intrinsic evaporation rate of pure water under 1 sun is 0.318 kg m⁻² h⁻¹. Setup 1 directly putting a solar absorber on the bulk water (setup 1) has an enhanced solar evaporation rate to 0.638 kg m⁻² h⁻¹. Further promotion is gained by equipping with a thermal insulating layer and a hydrophilic non-woven fiber (setup 2), of which the solar evaporation rate is 1.014 kg m⁻² h⁻¹.

2. Supplementary notes 2 (Devices for recycling freshwater from real seawater and wastewater) 42 A device was designed with a quartz roof for collecting the desalinated or purified water as shown 43 in Figure S14. The was illuminated by a solar simulator of which the solar flux was calibricated by an 44 optical power meter (PL-MW 2000, Perfect Light, China). The mass change of bulk water was 45 recorded real-time by a high-accuracy balance (ME204E, Mettler Toledo, Germany). As for the device, 46 the roof was made of quartz ensuring most of the incident light penetrated to the evaporation system. 47 In the evaporation process, the vapor continuously produced, upflowed, and then condensed by the 48 relatively cold roof. The concentrations of metal ions and dyes in original liquid and condensed water 49 were measured by an inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer (ICP-OES 6300, 50 Thermo Scientific, Germany) and an ultraviolet and visible spectrophotometer (UV-2550, Shimadzu, 51 Japan). 52

54 3. Supplementary notes 3 (Cost analysis)

The cost for estabilishing a solar desalination system is analyzed. As for our design, on the one hand, constructing our system is low-cost. The total cost of our solar system is \$0.349 including a melamine foam ($4 \times 4 \times 1$ cm³), a polystyrene foam ($4 \times 4 \times 0.5$ cm³), graphite oxide (60 mg), sodium hydroxide (1 M, 2 mL), and polyethyleneimine (180 mg). Moreover, establishing a solar evaporator of 1 m² costs \$21.8.

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Table. The cost analysis of the solar desalination system

Chemicals	Vendor	Weight or Size	Price	Materials or	Device cost
Circuiteuis	v chuơi	vergite of Size	11100	Device	Device cost
	Shanghai Xuxian				
Melamine foam	Technology Co.,	50×50×1 cm ³	\$4.879	$4 \times 4 \times 1 \text{ cm}^3$	\$0.031
	Ltd.				
	Shenzhen				
Non-woven cloth	Purcotton	600 pieces	\$6.970	0.25 piece	\$0.003
	Technology Co.,	ooo pieces			φ 0.005
	Ltd.				
	Wuhan Mingyu				
Polystyrene foam	Technology Co.,	$60 \times 60 \times 3 \text{ cm}^3$	\$1.059	$4 \times 4 \times 0.5 \text{ cm}^3$	\$0.001
	Ltd.				
Graphene oxide	Self-produced	30 g	\$81.69	60 mg	\$0.163
	Sinopharm				
Sodium hydroxide	Chemical Reagent	1000 g	\$4.043	0.08 g	\$0.000
	Co., Ltd.				
	Shanghai Aladdin				
	Bio-Chem	5 -	¢4 10 0	180 mg	<u> </u>
Polyetnyleneimine	Technology Co.,	5 g	\$4.182		\$0.151
	Ltd.				
Total		\$0.349 for a 16	cm ² solar e	vaporator	

62 4. Supplementary Figures (Figure S1-S14.)





Figure S2. The height distribution of GO (left) and GP (right) nanosheets detected by AFM:
 (a) 2D images (b) 3D images.



73

74 Figure S3. Schemes of two solar desalinatino setups: setup1 (a) and setup2 (b); the time-dependent

75 mass change of fabricated setups (c).







Figure S5. The contraction solar desalination tests of GO@MF and GP@MF in six different salinities.

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Figure S6. The time-dependent salinity change of the bulk water.





Figure S7. The time-dependent solar evaporation performance of GP@MF in two states:
 in pure water and with salt crystal on the evaporator.

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Figure S8. Comparison of the salt-rejecting ability between the state-of-the-art with GP@MF.







s13



Figure S10. Distributions of adhesion forces measured in air by AFM on particle surfaces:
 (a) GO, (b) GP.



Figure S11. The thermal conductivity coefficient of the samples in wet states.





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Figure S12. A record of infrared GP@MF under 1 sun illumination when treating the 25 wt.% NaCl

solution.



- Figure S13. The record of the solar evaporator during the desalination process: a solar absorber
- 118 GP@MF put on the simulated brine (20 wt.% NaCl) with a central hole for water supply.
- 119



Figure S14. The solar evaporation system for freshwater collection from seawater and wastewater.

124 5. Supplementary Tables (Table S1-S7.)

125 **Table S1.** The relative content of C, N and O species in MF, GO@MF and GP@MF.

126

Samples	C(%)	N(%)	O(%)
MF	39.28	29.26	31.46
GO@MF	68.00	6.83	25.16
GP@MF	66.91	16.16	16.94

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128 The relative content of each species was calculated from the high-resolution XPS spectra. The

129 equation (3) was employed to analyze the C, N and O XPS spectra, A is the peak area of the

130 coresponding spectra, S_i is the sensitivity factor of different species.

$$C\% = \frac{A}{S_i}$$
(3)

Dof	Mass change	Energy efficiency
NUI.	(kg m ⁻² h ⁻¹)	(%)
[1]	1.9	89.16
[2]	1.27	88
[3]	1.39	84.7
[4]	1.6	75
[5]	1.33	83.5
[6]	1.43	90
[7]	1.05	86.5
[8]	1.27	87.5
[9]	1.29	81.25
[10]	1	58
[11]	1.45*	80
[12]	1.3	87
[13]	1.17	86.5
[14]	1.38	86
[15]	1.358	86.7
[16]	0.96	71.4
[17]	1.42	89.9
[18]	0.967	83.6
[19]	1.17	80
[20]	1.492	90.8
[21]	1.28	93.63
[22]	1.227	78
[23]	1.26	88
[24]	1.95(-)	92.4
[25]	1.313	87.4
[26]	1.27	87.3
[27]	1.3	84
[28]	1.52	94.42
[29]	1.3	88.6

133 **Table S2.** A comparison of energy efficiency between previous reports and GP@MF under 1 sun.

[30]	0.9	57.3
[31]	1.2	82
[32]	"hemisphere"2.81	94.7
[33]	2.17	85.49
[34]	2.43	83.6
[35]	1.21	82.2
[36]	1.21	53.6
[37]	1.22	81.4
[38]	1.18	72.4
[39]	1.08	74
[40]	1.43	89.7
[41]	1.2	75.8
[42]	1.15	80.4
[43]	-	-
[44]		75
[45]		57
[46]		<65
[47]	1.24	83
[48]	1.25	79
[49]	0.93	63
[50]	1.3	87.04
[51]	1.05	71.7
[52]	1.82	
[53]	1.5	
[54]		
[4]	1.65	75
[55]		16.1
[56]		73.39
[57]	1.01	62.7
[58]	1.13	70.9
[59]	2.49	90
[60]	1.12	80
[61]		79.3

[62]	1.41	84.8
[63]	1.45	94.84
[64]	1.45	87.58
[65]	1.38	83.1
[66]	1.013	61.4
[67]		
[68]	1.27	
[69]	1.18	74.3
[70]	1.25	71.9
[71]	2.07 kg day-1	28.16
[72]	0.87	89.7
[73]		
[74]	0.95	68.9
[75]	1.492	90.8
[76]	1.26	81
[77]	1.44	83.1
[78]	1.014	72.5
[17]	1.48	102
[79]	1.52	92.42
[80]	1.56	93.8
[81]	2.08	93.6
[20]	1.262	86.6
[82]	1.314	85.81
[83]	1.48	89.2
[84]	1.41	86.4
[85]	1.394	90.1
[86]	1.38	86.9
[87]	1.41	88.6
[88]	1.27	88.6
[89]	1.3	72
[90]	1	78
[91]	1.62	85.7
[92]	1.24	83.3

[93]	1.37	83.5
[94]	1.38	86.5
[95]	1.191	76.5
[96]	1.375	82.11
[97]	1.282	89
[5]	1.33	83.5
[98]	1.25	78.5
[99]	1.34*	85.7
[100]	1.31	82
[101]	1.23	82
[102]	1.46	92.4
[103]	1.74	"W"89.9→82.4
[104]	1.38*	85.5
[105]	1.31	83
[106]	1.35	92.3
[107]	1.399	74.21
[108]	1.31	79.8
[109]	0.48	64
[110]	1.33	86
[111]	1.304	91.5
[112]	1.2	90.67
[113]	1.47	92.4
[114]	1.16	80
[115]	1.31	83
[116]		72
[117]	1.15	82
[118]	1.22	80.4
[119]	1.442	88.2
[120]	(r=4 cm) 1.05	57.9
Our	1 202	02.4
work	1.392	95.4

Ref.	Salt concentration (wt%)	Mass change (kg m ⁻² h ⁻¹)	Energy efficiency (%)
	0	1.9	89.16
[1]	3.5	1.7	
	17.5	1.6	
[4]	0	1.6	75
[.]	3.6	1.3	52
[7]	0	1.05	86.5
[']	15		80
[10]	0	1	58
[10]	2.75		57
	0	1.62	87
	1.4	1.5	
[12]	3	1.47	
	3.5	1.45	
	4	1.42	
[14]	0	1.62*(0.32)	86
[14]	10	1.24	
[20]	0	1.492	90.8
[20]	3.5		
[20]	0	1.3	88.6
[29]	3.5	1.2	
	0	"hemisphere"7→2.81	94.7
[32]	3.5	"hemisphere"5.7→2.65	89
	15	2.25	
52.43	0	2.43	83.6
[34]	3.5	1.93	
	0	1.21	82.2
[35]	1	1.11	75.7
	3.5	1.08	73.8

Table S3. Comparison of the solar evaporation performance in various salinitiesty between the state-of-the-art and our design under 1 sun.

	4.1	1.09	73.9
	23	1.05	71.6
	0	1.22 (1.314)	81.4
[37]	3.5	1.27	
[37]	10	1.24	
	20	1.22	
	0	-	-
[43]	1.1		59.4
	15	0.8	57.2
[45]	0		57
[13]	3.5		56
	0	1.70→1.25	79
[48]	3.5	1.2	
[10]	15	1.12	55
	25	1.06	0.51
	0	1.3	87.04
[50]	0.9		87
	3.5	1.125	
[51]	0	1.05	71.7
[]	3.5	0.998	
[52]	0	1.82	
[02]	3.5	1.69	
	0(10 suns)	13.26	93.39
[121]	3.5 Na	12.88	90.71
	3.5 Mg	12.75	89.82
	0		
[54]	3.5	4.1	
	15	3.4	
[4]	0	1.65	75
	3.6	1.24	
[55]	0		16.1
LJ	20		11.1
[56]	0		73.39

	5		73.24
	8.26		73.4
	15.25		71.05
	26.47		55.08
[57]	0	1.01	62.7
	3.5		60.2
	0	1.45	94.84
[63]	3.5	1.42	92.55
	20	1.35	87.96
[72]	0	0.87	89.7
[,_]	3.5		76
	0	1.46	
[75]	3.5	1.41	
	lake water	1.35	
	0	1.42	
[17]	3.5	1.33	
[]	10	1.3	
	20	1.25	
	0	1.52	92.42
[28]	5	1.52	
[-*]	10	1.51	
	15	1.49	
	0	1.56	93.8
[122]	3.5	1.36	82
	Yellow sea	1.4	
	0	1.394	90.1
[85]	3.5	1.322	
	10	0.98	
[89]	0	1.3	72
[]	3.5	0.75 h	51
	0	1	78
[90]	2	0.75	
	3.6	0.7	

	5	0.5	
	7	0.36	
	15	0.25	
[93]	0	1.37	83.5
[73]	3.5		<83.5
[100]	0	1.31	82
[100]	3.5	1.15	72
[101]	0	6.7	94
[101]	3.5	5.5	
[105]	0	1.31	83
[100]	3.5	1.19	72
	0	1.35	92.3
[106]	5		87.6
[100]	10		84.3
	20	1.2	82
	0	1.399 (1.620)	74.21
[107]	seawater (East China Sea)	1.568	71.51
	15% KCl	1.356	60.66
[113]	0	1.47	92.4
[113]	20	1.31	80.9
[116]	0		72
[II0]	3.5		63
	0	1.442(2.287)	88.2
[119]	7	2.03	
	10.5	1.8	
	0	1.392	93.4
Our	3.5	1.391	93.2
work	12.5	1.319	88.0
	25	1.236	82.8

Literature	Salt mass (g)	Time for dissolve	Dissolve speed (g h ⁻¹)	
number	San mass (g)	(h)		
[3]	0.500	3.000	0.167	
[7]	4.000	1.500	2.667	
[123]	0.500	1.000	0.500	
[19]	0.260	4.000	0.065	
[23]	4.500	1.000	4.500	
[32]	7.000	3.750	1.867	
[40]	0.250	2.000	0.125	
[43]	1.000	7.000	0.143	
[45]	1.524	1.150	1.325	
[67]	0.500	8.000	0.063	
[70]	0.500	2.000	0.250	
[20]	1.000	6.000	0.167	
[28]	1.000	2.000	0.500	
Our work	16.00	1.420	11.268	

Table S4. Comparison of the salt-rejecting capacity between the state-of-the-art and our work.

Samples	GP@MF	GO@MF	MF
Dry state	62.6 °C	59.6 °C	30.2 °C
Wet state	37.6 °C	36.8 °C	29.4 °C
Temperature rise	25.0 °C	22.8 °C	0.8 °C

Table S5 The temperature change of the solar absorber between the dry and wet state under 1 sun.

Samples	Thermal	Thermal conductivity (W m ⁻¹ K ⁻¹)		Mean	Standard Deviation
FP	1.558	1.559	1.561	1.560	0.00139
GO-FP	1.328	1.326	1.325	1.326	0.00156
GP-FP	1.159	1.158	1.160	1.159	0.00073

Samples	m _{Dry} (g)	m _{Wet} (g)	Density(g m ³)	Porosity(%)
GP@MF	0.0970	14.869	14.869	99.52
GO@MF	0.1500	12.913	12.913	97.11
MF	0.2580	13.129	13.129	98.60

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