Electronic Supplementary Information:

Green ethylene production in the UK by 2035: A techno-economic assessment

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Structure

The document is structured in six parts: In Section S.1, the adaptions of the references for the thermocatalytic processes to the new system boundary for green ethylene production are explained. Section S.2 presents the general set of equations underlying the electrocatalytic process models developed herein. Additionally, Section S.2 provides a process block diagram for each of the electrocatalytic processes including their respective separation processes. Section S.3 characterises the olefins production plants in the United Kingdom. Section S.4 shows that the economic allocation factor in our work is aligned with the commonly used cash flow method. Section S.5 complements Section 2.2. of the publication by providing more detail on the economic parameters of the techno-economic assessment. Finally, Section S.6 presents detailed energy and mass balances for the integrated stage-1 and stage-2 processes shown in Fig.2 of the publication.

| C | Compressor |
|---------|--|
| MS | Methanol synthesis |
| MSR | Methanol Synthesis Reactor |
| FS | Flash Separation |
| DC | Distillation Column |
| Р | Pump |
| MTO | Methanol to Olefins |
| MTOR | Methanol-to-Olefins Reactor |
| Q | Quench |
| СТМ | CO ₂ Methanation |
| CTMR | Carbon-to-Methane Reactor |
| ASU | Air Separation Unit |
| OCM | Oxidative coupling of methane |
| OCMR | Oxidative Coupling of Methane Reactor |
| CC | Carbon Capture |
| Met | Methanator |
| FU | Furnace |
| S-FT | Syngas Fischer-Tropsch |
| SFTR | Syngas Fischer-Tropsch Reactor |
| EtVPSA | Vacuum Pressure Swing Adsorption for Ethylene-separation |
| D-FT | Direct Fischer-Tropsch |
| DFTR | Direct Fischer-Tropsch Reactor |
| Mem | Membrane |
| СНР | Combined Heat and Power Unit |
| RWGS | Reverse water gas shift |
| HEX-INT | Heat exchanger for heat integration |

Abbreviations and mathematical notation

| HEX-HH | Heat exchanger for high heat | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| HPS | High-Pressure Steam | | | | |
| HEX | Heat Exchanger | | | | |
| PSA | Pressure Swing Adsorption | | | | |
| OER | Oxygen Evolution Reaction | | | | |
| RHE | Reversible Hydrogen Electrode | | | | |
| SCE | Saturated Calomel Electrode | | | | |
| HER | Hydrogen Evolution Reaction | | | | |
| CCM | Catalyst-Coated Membrane | | | | |
| BOP | Balance of Plant | | | | |
| AEM | Alkaline Exchange Membrane | | | | |
| PEM | Proton Exchange Membrane | | | | |
| VPSA | Vacuum Pressure Swing Adsorption | | | | |
| EL | Electrolyser | | | | |
| ABS | Absorption Column | | | | |
| E-DC | Extractive Distillation Column | | | | |
| TIC | Total Investment Cost | | | | |
| OSBL | Outside Battery Limit | | | | |
| ABS | Absorption Column | | | | |
| E-DC Extractive Distillation Column | | | | | |
| EL | Electrolyser | | | | |
| CapEx | Capital Expenditure | | | | |
| Cost _{turb} | Cost of turbine | | | | |
| P_turb | Power of turbine | | | | |
| Cost _{HEX} | Cost of heat exchanger | | | | |
| A _{HEX} | Heat transfer area of heat exchanger | | | | |
| Cost _{pump} | Cost of pump | | | | |
| <u> </u> | Volumetric flow rate through pump | | | | |
| Cost _r | Capital cost of process unit r | | | | |
| <i>S</i> ₀ | Base capacity of process unit r | | | | |
| S_r | Capacity of process unit r | | | | |
| Cost ₀ | Base capital cost of process unit r | | | | |
| S _f | Scaling factor | | | | |
| E_r | Energy consumption by process unit r | | | | |
| E ₀ | Base energy consumption or process unit r | | | | |
| $\eta_{F,i}$ | Faradaic efficiency of component i | | | | |
| j | Current density | | | | |
| E ^{SHE} | Half-cell electrode potential | | | | |
| $\dot{n}_{C_2H_4}$ | Molar flow rate of ethylene | | | | |
| F | Faraday constant | | | | |

| Ι | Current | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Zi | Number of electrons transferred | | | | |
| | Molar flow rate of component i | | | | |
| $\dot{n}_{CO_2}^{st}$ | Stoichiometric molar flow rate of CO ₂ | | | | |
| X _{CO} | Conversion of CO ₂ | | | | |
| ΔE_{op} | Overpotential | | | | |
| $E^{0}_{red.OER}$ | Standard reduction potential of the oxygen evolution reaction | | | | |
| A _{cell} | Electrode area | | | | |
| Cost _{ccm} | Cost of catalyst-coated membrane | | | | |
| f _{ccm} | Fraction of CCM cost of future PEM electrolysers | | | | |
| f _{HT,stack} | Fraction of the stack cost on the system cost for HT CO electrolyser | | | | |
| SC _{HT,ref} | Specific cost of HT CO electrolysers | | | | |
| Cost _{stack,LT} | Capital cost of the stack in LT CO ₂ /CO electrolysers | | | | |
| Cost _{stack,HT} | Capital cost of the stack in HT CO electrolyser | | | | |
| Cost _{system,LT} | Total system cost of LT CO ₂ /CO electrolyser | | | | |
| Cost _{system,HT} | Total system cost of HT CO electrolyser | | | | |
| SC _{BOP,LT} | Specific cost of the balance of plant of LT CO ₂ /CO electrolysers | | | | |
| LT | Lifetime | | | | |
| S | Stack replacements | | | | |
| f_{UF} | Utilisation factor | | | | |
| Р | Electrolyser power consumption | | | | |
| r | Interest rate | | | | |
| f _{er} | Cost fraction of plant erection | | | | |
| f_c | Cost fraction of civil engineering | | | | |
| f_{sb} | Cost fraction of structures and buildings | | | | |
| FCI | Fixed capital investment | | | | |
| Cost _{FCI,EL} | Total fixed capital investment of electrolyser | | | | |
| MA | Mixed amine | | | | |
| <i>C</i> ₀ | Capital cost of separation process in electrocatalytic processes | | | | |
| n | Economies of scale scaling factor | | | | |
| $Cost_{FCI,sp}$ | FCI of separation process | | | | |
| f_{IC} | Cost fraction of piping, engineering and construction | | | | |
| Cost _{FCI,tot} | Total FCI of electrocatalytic process | | | | |
| Cost _{wc} | Working capital | | | | |
| <i>Cost_{start}</i> | Cost of start-up | | | | |
| Cost _{cont} | Cost of contingencies | | | | |
| t _{20%} | Time to achieve 20% concentration of liquid product in electrolyte | | | | |
| LCOEt | Levelised cost of ethylene | | | | |
| OpEx | Operating expenditure | | | | |
| CRF | Cost reduction factor | | | | |

| m _e | Production rate of ethylene |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Cost _j | Price of side-product j |
| m_j | Production rate of side-product j |
| AF _{econ} | Economic allocation factor |

S. 1 Thermocatalytic Process Modelling

In the following, the process flowsheet as provided in the reference is presented in form of a process block diagram. Where applicable, modifications made to the reference processes are detailed. For simplicity, it is assumed that any impurities in the recycle stream or the intermediate stream after separation can be neglected. Where multiple heat integrated process designs are available in the reference, the cheapest process is chosen. Where a net import of hot utility is required, the system is extended to include a hydrogen boiler which is assimilated to a condensing steam boiler with an efficiency of 89% and specific capital costs of 43 £/kW as presented in Olympios et al. (1).



S. 1.1 Methanol Synthesis (MS)

Figure S. 1: In the methanol synthesis from CO_2 and hydrogen as modelled by Perez-Fortes et al. (2), both inlet streams are first compressed to 78 bar (C) before entering the adiabatic plug flow reactor (MSR) to be converted to methanol. Unconverted H_2 and carbon oxides are separated from the liquid phase in a flash vessel (FS) and recycled to the reactor with 1% of the recycle stream being purged. Using a second FS, an almost gas-free mixture of methanol and water is obtained (63 wt%_{MeOH}). The mixture is fed to a distillation column (DC) to recover methanol at the top. The methanol stream is compressed (C) before it is condensed (FS) and any remaining inert gases being purged. The final methanol stream has a purity of > 99.9 wt%.

The reference for the MS process as described in Perez-Fortes et al. (2) remained unchanged and is summarised in Figure S.1.

S. 1.2 Methanol to Olefins (MTO)



Figure S. 2: The methanol stream is preheated to 150 °C (P) and together with steam fed to the fluidized bed reactor (400°C, 3 bar) (MTOR). The product stream is quenched (Q) and impurities are removed in the discharged water. The vapor stream is compressed (C) and then split into vapor and organic liquid phase in a flash vessel (FS). The light components are removed from the vapor, before sending it to the demethanizer (DC). A condensate splitter (DC) is used to recover the C3+ products from the liquid phase and sent it to the depropanizer. The bottom product of the demethanizer enters a deethanizer (DC) and followed by a C₂-splitter (DC) to recover ethylene and ethane from the top product. The bottom product of the deethanizer feeds into the depropanizer (DC) of which the top product goes to a C₃-splitter (DC) to recover propylene and propane. Ethylene and propylene are both produced at polymer grade (99.5 wt%).

The MTO process as presented in Chen et al. (3) had to be modified in two ways. Firstly, the mass balance around the water removal units (D-101, D-102) and the CO_2 removal unit (A-101) in the conditioning section of the original flowsheet were stated incorrectly and therefore the streams were recalculated. The updated flow rates and compositions are provided in Table S. 1.

| Process unit (original) | D-101 | A-101 & D-102 | T-204 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Stream | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| Temperature (°C) | | | 9.8 |
| Pressure (bar) | | | 27 |
| Vapor frac | | | 1 |
| Mole Flow (kmol/hr) | 16.0 | 99.7 | 225.64 |
| Mass Flow (kg/hr) | 317.3 | 4127.8 | 6587.20 |
| Mola | ar compos | ition (%) | |
| H ₂ | 4.9 | 0.7 | 0.3 |
| СО | 3.9 | 0.9 | 0.3 |
| CH ₄ | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.4 |
| C_2H_4 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 83 |
| C ₂ H ₆ | 0.0 | 1.3 | 2.2 |
| CO ₂ | 0.0 | 86.0 | 3.7 |
| C ₃ H ₆ | 0.0 | 0.4 | 7.1 |
| C ₃ H ₈ | 0.0 | 1.0 | trace |
| C_4H_8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 |
| C ₄ H ₁₀ | 0.0 | 0.9 | 0 |
| C5H10 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 |
| C ₆ H ₁₂ | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 |
| CH ₃ OH | 16.2 | 0.6 | 0 |
| H ₂ O | 75.0 | 7.1 | 0 |

Table S. 1: The stream table presents updated flow rates and compositions for parts of the process flowsheet presented Chen et al. (3). The streams represent waste water (Stream 29), condensate from the splitter (Stream 31) and captured CO_2 (Stream 30).

Secondly, Chen et al. (4) did not account for the energy required to produce the steam needed to heat the reactor. However, the reference indicates that excess heat from the reactor is available: *"MTO process releases significant amount of reaction heat, which can be utilized by generating high pressure steam (HPS)"*. To comply with the methodology described in Section 2.2.1 of the main manuscript, a heat integration loop was explicitly designed and is shown in Figure S. 3. The energy balance is calculated by selecting temperature, pressure and state of each stream based on the steam tables in Green et al. (16).



Figure S. 3: The system of heat exchangers and hydrogen boilers was explicitly designed to integrate the excess heat of the reactor to create the high-pressure steam that is fed as a reactant to the reactor. Stream 4 was defined according to the flowsheet presented in Chen et al. (4).

The capital expenditure of the steam turbine, heat exchangers and pump were based on cost correlations presented in Towler and Sinnot (5), converting USD2010 using a CEPCI of 523.9 and an exchange rate of 1.26 USD/GBP (6). The capital expenditure (CapEx) of the steam turbine (*Cost_{Turb}*) in Figure S.3 can be estimated based on its power consumption (P_{Turb}) by Eq. 1.

$$Cost_{Turb} = -14,000 + 1,900 \cdot P_{Turb}^{0.75}$$
(Eq. 1)

A counter-current flow through the heat exchanger (HEX) and an overall heat transfer coefficient of 550 btu hr⁻¹ ft⁻² (5) were assumed. Hence, the capital cost of the HEX (*Cost_{HEX}*) was determined based on its heat transfer area (A_{HEX} in [m²]) by Eq. 2.

$$Cost_{HEX} = 28,000 + 54 \cdot A_{HEX}^{1.2}$$
 (Eq. 2)

Finally, the capital cost of the water pump ($Cost_{Pump}$) were derived based on the volumetric flow rate (\dot{V} in [L s⁻¹]) according to Eq. 3.

$$Cost_{Pump} = 8,000 + 240 \cdot \dot{V}^{0.9}$$
(Eq. 3)

| Equipment | Capital cost [k£2019] |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Steam turbine | 4260 |
| Heat exchanger (HEX-1) | 37 |
| Heat exchanger (HEX-2) | 45 |
| Water pump | 14 |
| H2 Boiler-1 | 1460 |
| H2 Boiler-2 | 19 |

Table S. 2: The capital cost for the steam cycle shown in Fig. S.3 are summarised.

S. 1.3 CO₂ Methanation (CTM)



Figure S. 4: For the CO_2 methanation, a series of four adiabatic fixed bed reactors (CTMR) are used to avoid cooking and sintering of the catalyst. The synthetic natural gas is subsequently cooled and dried in a flash unit (FS).

While the CO₂ capture and compression units were excluded from the original flowsheet provided in (7), the methanation process itself remained unchanged. The process block diagram had to be extended by a compression stage to match the pressure of feed stream to the OCM process, that represents the stage-2 process converting methane to ethylene. A two-stage compressor was explicitly designed in Aspen Plus V.11 to increase the pressure of the outlet stream from 9 bar to the 70 bar as shown in Figure S. 5. The electricity demand of the compressor is 74 kW and its capital cost are 1.2 M£.



Figure S. 5: A schematic of the two-stage compressor for the CTM process and the characteristics of the inlet and outlet streams are shown.

As the carbon capture unit is excluded from the flowsheet in Chauvy et al. (7), the heat released from the catalytic methanation becomes available as it is no longer used in the reboiler of the capture unit or the stripping column. Therefore, a condensing steam turbine is designed to convert the excess heat in 185 °C, 8 bar steam to electricity. The capital cost of the steam turbine is calculated as outlined in section S. 2.1. Even after meeting the electricity demand of the compression unit and the OCM process, an electricity surplus is available as summarised in Table S. 3.

Table S. 3: Overview about the electricity produced and consumed in the CTM process, as well as the excess electricity that can be integrated with the subsequent oxidative coupling of methane.

| Available excess heat from methanation reactors, [kW] | 931.62 |
|--|--------|
| Electricity produced from excess heat with $\eta_{Turb} = 0.8$, [kW] | 745.30 |
| Electricity consumed for the compression of methane, [kW] | 74.08 |
| Electricity available for integration with stage-2 process (OCM), [kW] | 671.22 |
| Capital cost of steam turbine, [M£] | 0.26 |

S. 1.4 Oxidative Coupling of Methane (OCM)



Figure S. 6: The block diagram of the oxidative coupling of methane process as described in Spallina et al. (8) is shown. Oxygen from the cryogenic air separation unit (ASU) is mixed with the CH₄ feed stream before entering the OCM reactor (OCMR). Before feeding the product stream to the de-methanizer (DC), the CO₂ side-product is removed using a carbon capture unit (CC). The bottom product of the de-methanizer (DC) is fed to the deethanizer to obtain C₂H₄ with a purity of 99.5%. The top product is a CH₄ rich gas, that is partially purged and combusted in a boiler (FU), while the majority is sent to a methanator reactor (Met).

The flowsheet as presented in Spallina et al. (8) remained unchanged, but an additional calculation was made to complete the mass balance around the OCM process and determine the emissions caused by the combustion of the purge stream (see Fig. S. 6). The composition of the flue gas was thereby determined based on a combustion calculation assuming 4% excess air. The mass balance around the boiler is given in Table S. 4.

| Chamical | Molecular mass [g/mol] | CH4 rich gas | (inlet stream) | Flue gas (outlet stream) | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------|--|
| Chemical | | [kg] | [mol] | [kg] | [mol] | |
| CH ₄ | 16 | 10.20 | 0.64 | - | - | |
| CO | 28 | 4.49 | 0.16 | - | - | |
| H_2 | 2 | 0.82 | 0.41 | - | - | |
| O_2 | 32 | 51.96 | 1.62 | 2.00 | 0.06 | |
| N_2 | 28 | 171.02 | 6.11 | 171.02 | 6.11 | |
| CO_2 | 44 | - | - | 35.11 | 0.80 | |
| H ₂ O | 18 | - | - | 30.36 | 1.69 | |
|] | Total | 238.49 | 8.94 | 238.49 | 8.66 | |

Table S. 4: The mass balance around the boiler of the OCM process is summarised. The flue gas stream leaving the boiler results from the combustion of the CH_4 rich gas inlet stream in 4% excess air.



S. 1.5 Syngas Fischer-Tropsch Synthesis (S-FT)

Figure S. 7: In the S-FT process presented in Liu et al. (9), the syngas feed stream is first converted to a mixture of short- and long-chain hydrocarbons in the Fischer-Tropsch reactor (SFTR). The heavier C_5 components are then removed in an extractive distillation (DC), before performing a CO_2 adsorption (CC) and separating the mixed product stream further in a cryogenic distillation train (DC units).

The methane reformer used to produce syngas and the combined heat and power generator were excluded from the original flowsheet presented in Liu et al. (9). Therefore, the capital expenditures associated with these process units $(Cost_r)$ were firstly back-calculated based on their base capacity (S_0) , actual capacity (S_r) , base unit capital cost $(Cost_0)$ and scaling factor (s_f) using Eq. 4. Secondly, the CapEx summarised in Tab. S.5 were deducted from the direct costs of the overall process stated in Liu et al. (9)

$$Cost_r = 1.35 \cdot Cost_0 \left(\frac{S_r}{S_0}\right)^{s_f}$$
 (Eq. 4)

Table S. 5: The process units removed from the original S-FT process of Liu et al. (9) are summarised. The CapEx of the process units were determined using Eq. 4. The capacities of the CO_2 reformer and absorber are in [kg/s], while the capacities of the steam turbine and air compressor are given in [MW].

| Process unit | Base unit cost, Cost ₀ [M£] | Base capacity, S ₀ | Actual capacity, <i>S_r</i> | Scale factor, s _f [-] | CapEx, <i>Cost_r</i> [M£] |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| CO ₂ reformer | 19.62 | 12.2 | 17.64 | 0.67 | 39.79 |
| Air compressor | 3.85 | 8.54 | 5.04 | 0.67 | 4.28 |
| Steam turbine | 42.36 | 136 | 21.81 | 0.67 | 19.68 |
| Amine-based CO ₂ absorber | 3.44 | 8.54 | 0.72 | 0.55 | 1.40 |

Upon removal of the process units summarised in Table S.4, excess heat from the Fischer-Tropsch reactor becomes available that can be used to generate electricity in a condensing steam turbine. The design of the steam turbine follows the procedure outlined in Section S. 1.2 and is summarised in Table S. 6.

Table S. 6: The excess process heat, generated electricity and capital cost of the steam turbine added to the S-FT process of Liu et al. (9) are summarised. The electricity can be integrated with the stage-1 process producing the CO inlet stream of the S-FT process.

| Excess heat, [MWh] | 19.89 |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Generated electricity, [MWh] | 15.91 |
| CapEx, [M£] | 86.86 |



S. 1.6 Direct Fischer-Tropsch Synthesis (D-FT)

Figure S. 8: The direct Fischer-Tropsch process hydrogenates CO_2 to ethylene over a Febased catalyst. A major share of the unconverted CO_2 and H_2 are first recovered and using a membrane unit (Mem), before also using amine-based carbon capture unit (CC) to meet the specifications of the de-methanizer (DC). The pressure swing adsorption unit (PSA) recovers the H_2 in the permeate. A combined heat and power plant (CHP) generates utilities on-site from residue gas stream of the de-methanizer and PSA. The original D-FT flowsheet of Do and Kim (10) is herein extended by a cryogenic distillation train (DC units) and an air separation unit (ASU).

For our work, the process design for the D-FT synthesis from Do and Kim (10) was extended by including an air separation unit (ASU) to supply a pure O₂ stream to the combined heat and power plant (CHP) and a cryogenic distillation train comprising a de-ethanizer, C₂ distillation, C₃₋₄ splitter, C₃ distillation, and C₄ distillation column. The ASU is designed based on Gazzani et al. (11) with €1M for 0.35 to₂/h and 8.1 kWh/to₂ as the reference values. The unit capacity and cost of the cryogenic distillation train were adopted from Liu et al. (9) and are summarised in Table S. 6. The actual costs are found using Eq. 4. The heat requirement (E_r) for a process is assumed to be linearly proportional to its actual capacity S_r and specific energy requirement (E_0/S_0) (Eq. 5).

$$E_r = \frac{E_0}{S_0} \cdot S_r \tag{Eq. 5}$$

Table S. 7: For each distillation column of the cryogenic distillation train, the base capacity, base cost and scaling factor provided in Liu et al. (9) is summarised. The actual capacity is determined based on the product stream in Do and Kim (10). The capital costs are used to update the total capital investment cost of Do and Kim (10).

| Process unit | Base unit cost, Cost ₀ [M£] | Base capacity, S ₀ | Actual capacity, S _r | Scale factor, s _f [-] | CapEx, <i>Cost_r</i> [M£] |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
| De-methaniser | 0.10 | 5.54 | 34.65 | 0.68 | 1.14 |
| C ₂ splitter | 2.03 | 0.73 | 9.68 | 0.80 | 5.87 |
| De-propaniser | 0.68 | 1.14 | 24.61 | 0.79 | 0.74 |
| C ₃ splitter | 1.45 | 0.65 | 12.74 | 0.64 | 3.13 |
| C ₄ splitter | 1.79 | 0.40 | 11.87 | 0.82 | 3.59 |
| Total | | | | | |

Table S. 8: The energy consumption of each distillation column of the cryogenic separation train as presented in Liu et al. (9) is provided below. The energy demands were not integrated with the D-FT process in Do and Kim (10).

| Process unit | Base capacity, S ₀ | Actual capacity, <i>S_r</i> | Energy demand, <i>E</i> _0 [kW] | Actual energy demand, <i>E_f</i> [kW] |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| De-methaniser | 5.54 | 0.68 | 562.00 | 3,514.99 |
| C ₂ splitter | 0.73 | 0.80 | 754.00 | 9,982.26 |
| De-propaniser | 1.14 | 0.79 | 537.00 | 11,594.91 |
| C ₃ splitter | 0.65 | 0.64 | 2,346.00 | 45,854.00 |
| C ₄ splitter | 0.40 | 0.82 | 1,141.00 | 33,653.59 |
| | Tot | al | | 104,599.75 |

S. 2 Electrocatalytic Processes

S. 2.1 Process Modelling

S. 2.1.1 Low-Temperature Electrocatalytic Processes

Based on the experimental data, the electricity demand, electrode area and capital cost of the CO₂/CO electrolyser system need to be determined. The input parameters are the Faradaic efficiencies ($\eta_{F,i}$) of the individual products *i*, the conversion rate of CO₂ (or CO) (X_{CO_2}), the current density (*j* in A/m²) and the half-cell reduction potential of CO₂ (or CO) (E_{red}^{SHE} in V). These parameters are tabulated in Table 1 of the publication. Additionally, the molar production rate of ethylene ($\dot{n}_{C_2H_4}$ in mol/s) at the chemical plant needs to be defined.

Using the Faradaic efficiency and molar production rate of ethylene, the electric current I in Ampere is determined using Eq. 6, where F is the Faraday constant of 96,485 As and z_i the number of electrons that are transferred per mole of product in the electroreduction as given by the reaction equations. The Faradaic efficiencies of the co-products of the electrocatalytic processes are summarised in Table S. 10.

$$\eta_{F,i} = \frac{z_i \cdot \dot{n}_i \cdot F}{I} \tag{Eq. 6}$$

Table S. 10: The Faradaic efficiency of each co-product of the electrocatalytic processes are listed below. Abbreviations: eCO: CO₂ electroreduction to carbon monoxide; eCH₄: CO₂ electroreduction to methane; S-eC₂H₄: CO electroreduction to ethylene; D-eC₂H₄: CO2 electroreduction to ethylene.

| Process | Ref. | | Faradaic efficiency of individual product <i>i</i> , $\eta_{F,i}$ [-] | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------|-------|---|-----------------|-------|----------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|--|--|--|
| | | CO | H ₂ | CH ₄ | НСООН | C_2H_4 | C ₂ H ₅ OH | C ₃ H ₇ OH | CH ₃ COOH | | | |
| eCO | (12) | 0.998 | 0.002 | - | - | - | - | - | - | | | |
| eCH ₄ | (13) | 0.02 | 0.14 | 0.73 | - | 0.05 | - | - | - | | | |
| S-eC ₂ H ₄ | (14) | - | 0.07 | - | - | 0.69 | 0.15 | 0.02 | 0.11 | | | |
| D-eC ₂ H ₄ | (15) | 0.03 | 0.31 | - | - | 0.66 | - | - | - | | | |

According to the conversion rate achieved in the experiments, the input stream of CO₂/CO must be greater than the stoichiometrically required molar flow rate $(\dot{n}_{CO_2}^{st})$.

$$X_{CO_2} = \frac{\dot{n}_{CO_2}^{st}}{\dot{n}_{CO_2}}$$
(Eq. 7)

The necessary power applied to the CO2/CO electrolyser results from the electric current *I* and the cell voltage E_{cell} (Eq. 8).

$$P = I \cdot E_{cell} \tag{Eq. 8}$$

For the half-cell voltage, the overpotential given in the relevant references (see Table S.11) is converted from their reference electrode to the SHE (Eq. 9-10).

$$E_{red}^{SHE} = E_{red}^{RHE} + 0.059 \cdot pH \tag{Eq. 9}$$

$$E_{red}^{SHE} = E_{red}^{SCE} + 0.2415$$
 (Eq. 10)

The cell voltage is now calculated by adding the half-cell potentials of the CO_2/CO reduction and the oxygen evolution reaction (OER) (Eq. 11).

$$E_{cell} = E_{red,CO2/CO} - E_{red,OER}$$
(Eq. 11)

The actual half-cell potentials deviate from the standard cell potentials due to overpotentials needed to overcome the ohmic resistance at high current densities and kinetically activate the electrodes. For the cathode, we assume the overpotential to be included in the experimental measurements of the half-cell potentials for the CO₂/CO electroreduction. However, for the anode, an overpotential (ΔE_{OP}) of 0.8 V as determined in (16) is added on top of the standard reduction potential for the OER under alkaline conditions ($E_{red,OER}^0$) of 0.4 V. The half-cell potentials for the CO₂/CO electroreduction under alkaline conditions to the different co-products of the electrocatalytic processes are reported in Table S.11.

Table S.11: The half-cell potential for each co-product of the CO/CO₂ electroreduction under alkaline conditions is given below.

| Ref. | Half-cell Electrochemical Reaction | Potential <i>E_{red}</i> [V] | Reference Electrode |
|------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| (12) | $CO_2 + 2 H_2O + 2 e^- \rightarrow CO + 2 OH^-$ | -0.11 | RHE |
| (17) | $CO_2 + 6 H_2O + 8 e^- \rightarrow CH_4 + 8 OH^-$ | -0.13 | SCE |
| (17) | $CO_2 + H_2O + 2 e^- \rightarrow HCOOH + 2 OH^-$ | -0.61 | SCE |
| (15) | $2 \text{ CO}_2 + 8 \text{ H}_2\text{O} + 12 \text{ e}^- \rightarrow \text{C}_2\text{H}_4 + 12 \text{ OH}^-$ | 0.08 | RHE |
| (14) | $2 \text{ CO} + 4 \text{ H}_2\text{O} + 8 \text{ e}^- \rightarrow \text{C}_2\text{H}_4 + 8 \text{ OH}^-$ | 0.59 | RHE |
| (14) | $2 \text{ CO} + 6 \text{ H}_2\text{O} + 8 \text{ e}^- \rightarrow \text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH} + 6 \text{ OH}^-$ | 0.09 | RHE |
| (14) | $2 \text{ CO} + 8 \text{ H}_2\text{O} + 12 \text{ e}^- \rightarrow \text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{OH} + 12 \text{ OH}^-$ | 0.10 | RHE |
| (14) | $2 \text{ CO} + 2 \text{ H}_2\text{O} + 2 \text{ e}^- \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{COOH} + 2 \text{ OH}^-$ | 0.11 | RHE |
| (18) | $8 \text{ OH}^- \rightarrow 2 \text{ O}_2 + 4 \text{ H}_2 \text{O} + 8 \text{ e}^-$ | 0.4 | SHE |

As electrochemical reactions occur on the interface of the electrodes, the reaction rate is proportional to the electrode area (A_{cell}) . Based on the current density *j* and the calculated total current *I*, the electrode area can be determined.

$$j = \frac{I}{A_{cell}}$$
(Eq. 12)

Higher current densities decrease the overall electrolyser size. In general, j is a function of the mass transfer from and to the electrode surface, the adsorption of CO₂/CO to the catalyst, the kinetics of the electron transfer, and the reaction mechanism.

While experiments on CO₂/CO electrolysis are commonly performed in H-type and flow cells, a zero-gap arrangement in which the cathodic and anodic porous transport layers are in direct contact with the catalyst coated ion-exchange membrane is expected to be used for large-scale CO₂/CO electrolysers, because it reduces the ohmic resistance and of its smaller ohmic resistance and tolerates pressurised inlet streams (19,20). The humidified CO_2 (or CO) stream is fed directly to the cathodic gas diffusion electrode, while deionised water or an aqueous hydroxide solution is at the anode. For the electroreduction of CO₂ (CO₂RR) or CO (CORR), anion exchange membranes (AEM) are preferred because the acidic conditions of a proton exchange membrane (PEM) favour the hydrogen evolution reaction (HER) at the cathode (20). The milder reaction conditions of AEM electrolysers allow for the use of cheaper metals such as copper or silver at the cathode and Fe₂O₃/NiO at the anode instead of corrosion-resistant but expensive platinum-group metals (21,22). However, 0.01-0.1 M KOH solutions are required to achieve pH > 9 in the analyte to stabilise the transition-metal catalyst (21,23). Currently, AEM such as Sustainion (24) and PiperION (25) are being developed for CO₂RR but at high costs of 3001.3 \pounds/m^2 (123) caused by their small scale of production. Note, that low-temperature AEM-based CO₂RR suffer from parasitic losses due to the (bi-)carbonate formation (26), but these losses had to be neglected as they are not quantified in the experiments underlying our CO₂ electrolyser models. However, this assumption leads to a general overestimation of the energy efficiency (27).

Having qualitatively assessed the future design of large-scale low-temperature CO₂/CO electrolysers, their capital costs are derived based on analogies to existing electrolyser technologies: The cell design and the balance of plant (BOP) layout of AEM electrolysers are found to be similar to PEM electrolysers (28). While the same cost structure for the capital cost of the electrolyser stack is assumed, the difference in the catalyst coated membrane (CCM) is accounted for (see Table S. 12). To estimate the cost of the CO2 electrolyser stack, the mass loading of Ag catalyst from Moreno-Gonzalez et al. (29) is assimilated to a Cu catalyst at the cathode side. The future price of the anion-exchange membrane itself is set to match the large-scale production price of the NafionTM membranes (352.4 \pounds/m^2) commonly used in PEM electrolysers (28,30). The capital cost of the CCM ($Cost_{CCM}$) is projected to be responsible for f_{CCM} = 45% of the stack cost in future PEM electrolysers (30). Based on A_{cell} determined in Eq. 12, the electrolyser stack of a low-temperature CO₂/CO electrolyser ($Cost_{stack,LT}$) can hence be calculated by Eq. 13.

$$Cost_{stack,LT} = \frac{1}{f_{CCM}} \cdot Cost_{CCM} \cdot A_{cell}$$
(Eq. 13)

Table S. 12: Based on the method of Moreno-Gonzalez et al. (29), the capital cost of the catalyst coated membrane ($Cost_{CCM}$) are determined based on the catalyst loading and cost (29,31). The cost of the AEM in CO_2/CO electrolysers is set equal to the price of Nafion membranes (28,30).

| Building block | Loading [g/m2] | Cost [£2019/kg] | Cost/Area [£2019/m ²] |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Cathode: Cu-catalyst | 0.1 | 4.72 | 0.047 |
| Anode: Fe ₂ O ₃ /NiO | 0.2 | 811.72 | 16.23 |
| Membrane: Nafion | | | 352.42 |
| TOTAL Cost _{CCM} | | | 368.70 |

For the present value of the total CO₂/CO electrolyser cost (*Cost_{system,LT}*) (see Eq. 14), the additional cost of the BOP (*Cost_{BOP}*) and the discounted cost of the stack replacements need to be accounted for. The BOP comprises the power supply, deionised water circulation system, hydrogen processing and cooling equipment, with the specific BOP cost (*SC_{BOP,LT}*) being set to 105.7 £/kW (30). By 2035, we assume the lifetime (*LT*) of the electrolyser stack to have extended to 5 years, leading to a total of 4 stack replacements (s = 0, ..., S - 1 with S = 4) over the 20-year lifetime of the chemical plant.

$$Cost_{system,LT} = \frac{1}{f_{UF}} \left(SC_{BOP,LT} \cdot P + Cost_{stack,LT} \cdot \sum_{s=0}^{S-1} \frac{1}{(1+r)^{LT \cdot s}} \right)$$
(Eq. 14)

As the BOP already comprises the majority of piping, instrumentation, and electrical installation, only equipment erection ($f_{er} = 0.3$), civil engineering ($f_c = 0.3$), and structures and buildings ($f_{sb} = 0.2$) (32) are added as indirect cost to the equipment cost to derive the fixed capital investment (FCI) of the electrolyser ($Cost_{FCI,EL}$):

$$Cost_{FCI,EL} = (1 + f_{er} + f_c + f_{sb}) \cdot Cost_{system,LT}$$
(Eq. 15)

To separate the gaseous products streams of the CO_2/CO electrolyser, a separation train is designed. To recover and recycle any unconverted CO_2 , a mixed-amine (MA) CO_2 absorption with a capture rate of 97% is applied first (33). The sequence of the subsequent separation units is dependent on the composition of the product stream. Ethylene can be separated from a mixture of H₂/CO/C₂H₄ by using a five-bed vacuum pressure swing adsorption (VPSA) with zeolite CaX (34). However, to separate H₂, CO and C₂H₄ with good purity and recovery, two separation stages are needed: H₂ is removed first using a five-bed VPSA with activated carbon (35) and only afterwards a five-bed vacuum pressure swing adsorption (VPSA) with zeolite CaX can be used to separate CO and C₂H₄. The VPSA model by Ramdin et al. (2021) is thereby adjusted to take the higher cost of CaX adsorbent into account.

A minimum concentration of 20 wt% in the electrolyte is required, before the liquid side-products such as acetic acid and alcohols (methanol, ethanol, propanol) can be separated (35). Acetic acid are separated by a liquid-liquid extractor using ethyl acetate, followed by an azeotropic distillation obtaining acetic acid as a bottom product. The separation of formic acid is assumed to proceed

analogously. For any of the alcohols, a two-stage distillation train can be used. The explicit separation train for each of the electrocatalytic processes is shown in the process diagrams of Section 2.2. The reference capacity (S_0), capital cost (C_0), and utility demands of the separation processes are summarised in Table S. 13. The utility requirement is assumed to scale linearly with the capacity of the separation unit, while the capital cost follows the economies of scale with a scaling factor (n) of 0.6 (see Eq. 16). However, given limits on diameter and pressure drop over an adsorption column, the feed is limited to a maximum volumetric flow rate of 21.6 m³/s (36). In the fixed capital costs of the separation process ($Cost_{FCI,SP}$), the indirect cost for piping, engineering and construction are included ($f_{IC} = 2.2$) (32).

$$Cost_{FCI,SP} = (1 + f_{IC})C_0 \left(\frac{S}{S_0}\right)^n$$
 (Eq. 16)

The fixed capital cost of the full electrocatalytic process ($Cost_{FCI,tot}$) is then determined by Eq. 17.

$$Cost_{FCI,tot} = Cost_{FCI,EL} + Cost_{FCI,SP}$$
(Eq. 17)

Having determined the fixed capital investments for the CO₂/CO electrolyser and its associated separation train ($Cost_{FCI,tot}$), the total invested capital (TIC) (37) can be determined by including additional costs incurred for the working capital needed to finance everyday operation ($Cost_{WC}$), plant start-up ($Cost_{start}$) and contingencies ($Cost_{cont}$):

$$Cost_{TIC} = Cost_{FCI,tot} + Cost_{WC} + Cost_{start} + Cost_{cont}$$
(Eq. 18)

 $Cost_{WC}$, $Cost_{start}$, and $Cost_{cont}$ are 15% (2), 10% (38) and 10% (32) of $Cost_{FCI,tot}$, respectively. The outside battery limit (OSBL) costs are neglected as the new production plant is assumed to replace a fossil-based process plant and therefore have the relevant infrastructure already in place. As in the case of the thermocatalytic process models, heat is supplied by hydrogen boilers, while the electricity demand is met through renewable electricity imports as the separation train cannot be integrated with the low-temperature electrolysers.

| Separation process | Ref. | Capacity S ₀ [Mt/y] | CapEx C ₀ [M£2019] | Electricity demand [MW] | Heat demand [MW] |
|----------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| MA CO2 Absorption | (33) | 529.57 | 148.60 | - | 53.26 |
| EtVSA | (39) | 5.08 | 4951.95 | 136.64 | - |
| H ₂ VPSA | (35) | 0.02 | 2.34 | 0.33 | - |
| Liquid-liquid Extractor | (35) | 0.15 | 10 | 0.6 | - |

Table S. 13: The key characteristics of the separation processes are summarised.

S. 2.1.2 High-Temperature Electrocatalytic Processes

The model of the HT CO electrolyser is based on the total energy consumption of 6-8 kWh per Nm^3 CO as stated by Haldor Topsoe (40). The upper limit was assumed to be applicable for a CO product stream with high purity (>99.5 vol%). According to Haldor Topsoe (40), 1 Nm^3 of CO₂ is consumed per 1 Nm^3 CO, which is accomplished using an internal recycle stream after separation (41) and translates into an overall conversion of 100% with a Faradaic efficiency of 100%. Based on the CO feed to the stage-2 process (see S. 6.4 and S. 6.5), the electricity consumption and CO₂ feed rate can be calculated. The oxygen production rate follows from the stochiometric reaction equation and the CO production rate.

Similar to the approach chosen for costing the low-temperature CO₂ electrolysers, the hightemperature CO electrolyser is assumed to indirectly benefit from the scale-up of their hightemperature counterparts for H₂ production. The capital cost of the SOEC is determined based on the specific system cost ($SC_{HT,ref}$) assumed for 2035 (600 £/kW (42)) and the power consumption of the HT eCO process. The stack cost is thereby estimated to contribute 21-26% of the system cost in the future (43,44). For simplicity, we herein assume 25% ($f_{HT,stack}$).

$$Cost_{stack,HT} = f_{HT,stack} \cdot SC_{HT,ref} \cdot P$$
(Eq. 19)

Aligned with the assumptions made for LT CO₂/CO electrolysers, the stack lifetime (*LT*) is assumed to reach 5 years by 2035 (44,45). Hence, 4 stack replacements (S = 4) will take place over the 20-year lifetime of the chemical plant as stated in Eq. 20 (s = 0, .., S - 1):

$$Cost_{system,HT} = (1 - f_{HT}) \cdot SC_{HT,ref} \cdot P + Cost_{stack,HT} \cdot \sum_{s=0}^{S-1} \frac{1}{(1+r)^{LT \cdot s}}$$
(Eq. 20)

The BOP of the SOEC already comprises the majority of piping, instrumentation, and electrical installation. For the fixed capital investment (FCI) of the HT CO electrolyser ($Cost_{FCI,EL}$) only equipment erection ($f_{er} = 0.3$), civil engineering ($f_c = 0.3$), and structures and buildings ($f_{sb} = 0.2$) (32) are therefore added as indirect cost to the system cost:

$$Cost_{FCI,EL} = (1 + f_{er} + f_c + f_{sb}) \cdot Cost_{system,HT}$$
(Eq. 21)

S. 2.2 Electrocatalytic Processes including Product Separation

For each of the electrocatalytic processes, a process block diagram of the overall process is provided, and a stream table is used to summarise the mass balances around the individual process units. The process comprises the CO_2/CO electrolyser and the separation processes required to purify the product and recycle the unconverted CO_2/CO .

S. 2.2.1 CO₂ Electroreduction to Methane (eCH₄)



Figure S.9: In the CO₂ electrolyser of the eCH₄ process, CO₂ (1) and water (2) are converted to oxygen (4) and a mixed product stream (5) of methane, formic acid and H₂ with 82 wt% of unconverted CO₂. The latter is separated in an absorption column (ABS) before being recycled. The methane product is purified to 95 wt% using a vacuum pressure swing adsorption (H₂VPSA).

Table S. 14: The stream table summarises the mass balances around the CO_2 electrolyser and separation units of the eCH₄ process. Stream 8 represents the product stream that is integrated with the stage-2 process to produce ethylene.

| Chamical | Mass of product j in stream i | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|--|
| Chemical | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | |
| CO_2 | 4.14 | | | | 5.41 | 5.24 | 0.17 | | 0.17 | | |
| H ₂ O | | 6.16 | 2.83 | | | | | | | | |
| O ₂ | | | | 5.48 | | | | | | | |
| CH ₄ | | | | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | 1.00 | | | |
| C_2H_4 | | | | | 0.18 | | 0.18 | 0.18 | | | |
| H_2 | | | | | 0.10 | | 0.10 | | 0.03 | | |

S. 2.2.2 Direct CO₂ Electroreduction to Ethylene (D-eC₂H₄)



Figure S. 10: The product stream (5) of the direct electroreduction of CO2 (1) to ethylene is purified to 79 wt% C_2H_4 (9) by separating and recycling the unconverted CO₂ (6) first and then removing the hydrogen by-product (8) using vacuum pressure swing adsorption (H_2VPSA).

Table S. 15: The mass balances around the CO_2 electrolyser and separation units are summarised in form of a stream table. Wastewater (3), oxygen (4), hydrogen (8) and the ethylene product stream (9) are leaving the system boundary, while CO_2 (1) and fresh water (2) enter it.

| Chemical | Mass of product j in stream i | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|--|--|
| Chemical | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | | |
| CO_2 | 3.49 | | | | 4.27 | 4.14 | 0.13 | | 0.13 | | | |
| H ₂ O | | 4.85 | 2.66 | | | | | | | | | |
| O ₂ | | | | 4.31 | | | | | | | | |
| C_2H_4 | | | | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | | |
| CO | | | | | 0.14 | | | | 0.14 | | | |
| H ₂ | | | | | 0.10 | | 0.10 | 0.10 | | | | |

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Figure S. 11: The S-eC₂H₄ process uses a CO electrolyser (EL) to convert CO (1) and water (2) to a mixture of ethylene, minor H₂ impurities and 79 wt% of unconverted CO (5). Ethylene and syngas are separated in a vacuum pressure swing adsorption (EtVPSA) with CaX type zeolite, leading to product stream (6) with 89 wt% ethylene. Using a second VPSA (H₂VPSA), the unconverted CO is separated and recycled to the electrolyser (8). Alcohols formed as liquid side products (3) are removed from the wastewater stream in an extractive distillation (E-DC).

Table S. 16: The mass balance for each process unit of the $S-eC_2H_4$ process can be calculated based on the stream table below. Stream (6) represents the ethylene product stream. Acetic acid, ethanol and ethanol are the liquid co-products in Stream (3).

| Chemical | | Mass of product j in stream i | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| СО | 3.25 | | | | 3.98 | 0.12 | 3.86 | 3.86 | | | |
| H ₂ O | | 3.88 | 1.45 | | | | | | | | 3.88 |
| O ₂ | | | | 3.45 | | | | | | | |
| C_2H_4 | | | | | 1.00 | 1.00 | | | | | |
| CH ₃ COOH | | | 0.68 | | | | | | | 0.68 | |
| CH ₃ CH ₂ OH | | | 0.36 | | | | | | | 0.36 | |
| CH ₃ CH ₂ CH ₂ OH | | | 0.04 | | | | | | | 0.04 | |
| H ₂ | | | | | 0.03 | | 0.03 | | 0.03 | | |



Figure S. 12: The CO₂ feedstock (1) is reduced to CO leaving the CO₂ electrolyser (EL) as a 1:5 mixture of CO/CO₂ (5), that is separated in an absorption column (ABS). The unconverted CO₂ is recycled (6).

Table S. 17: The stream table provides an overview on the mass balances for each process unit of the eCO process. The CO content in the product stream (7) is 68 wt%.

| Chemical | Mass of product j in stream i | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|--|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | | |
| CO ₂ | 2.04 | | | | 4.71 | 4.24 | 0.47 | | | |
| H ₂ O | | 0.64 | 0.64 | | | | | | | |
| O ₂ | | | | 0.57 | | | | | | |
| СО | | | | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | | |
| H ₂ | | | | | 0.00 | | 0.00 | | | |

S. 2.2.5 Exclusion of Liquid Product from eCH₄ and S-eC₂H₄ processes

 $S-eC_2H_4$ process liquid co-products alongside their target products methane and ethylene, respectively. For the rough calculations described in the following, the density of the liquid products and the electrolyte are set equal for simplicity.

The reference electrolyser for the S-eC₂H₄ process by Ji et al. (14) uses a flow-cell set-up in which the electrolyte flows. Like Ramdin et al. (35), we assume that a concentration of 20 wt% formic acid in the aqueous electrolyte is required for the separation in an extractive distillation column. Therefore, the electrolyte needs to be recycled before the overall liquid product concentration reaches 20 wt%. Using the Faradaic efficiencies and current density reported in Ji et al. (14), the single-pass concentration for each liquid product is determines in Table S. 19. Also here, the liquid products are hence neglected.

| | | Liquid product | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Acetic acid | Ethanol | Propanol |
| Stack area, cm^3 | | 13 | |
| Current density, $mA \ cm^{-3}$ | | 150 | |
| Faradaic efficiency | 0.11 | 0.15 | 0.02 |
| $\dot{m}_{product}$, $g~min^{-1}$ | $1.05 \cdot 10^{-3}$ | $7.89 \cdot 10^{-4}$ | $8.03 \cdot 10^{-5}$ |
| $\dot{V}_{product}$, c $m^3~min^{-1}$ | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.0001 |
| $\dot{V}_{electrolyte}$, $cm^3~min^{-1}$ | | 0.5 | |
| Concentration, vol% | 0.002 | 0.002 | 0.0002 |

Table S. 29: For the S- eC_2H_4 process (14), the concentration of the liquid co-products for a single-pass of the electrolyte is determined, justifying their exclusion from the valuable co-products.

S. 2.2.6 Fixed Capital Investment of the Low-Temperature Electrocatalytic Processes Table S. 20: The power, area, stack cost, system cost and fixed investment cost of each lowtemperature electrocatalytic process as part of each production route to ethylene.

| Processes | P [MW] | A [m ²] | Cost _{stack} [M£2019] | Cost _{system} [M£2019] | Cost _{FCI,EL} [M£2019] |
|---|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| eCO ($eCO + S - eC_2H_4$) | 1619.40 | 163,666.55 | 134.10 | 595.90 | 1072.61 |
| eCO (eCO + S-FT) | 17840.94 | 1,803,116.38 | 1477.35 | 6565.00 | 11817.00 |
| $\frac{\text{S-eC}_2\text{H}_4}{(\text{eCO} + \text{S- eC}_2\text{H}_4)}$ | 2844.91 | 675,670.23 | 553.60 | 2009.01 | 3616.22 |
| $\frac{\text{S-eC2H4}}{(\text{HT-eCO} + \text{S- eC}_2\text{H}_4)}$ | 2844.91 | 675,670.23 | 553.60 | 2009.01 | 3616.22 |
| $D-eC_2H_4$ | 4175.02 | 1,444,873.33 | 1183.83 | 4071.98 | 7329.56 |
| eCH_4 ($eCH_4 + OCM$) | 13932.61 | 794,107.38 | 650.64 | 3604.79 | 6488.63 |

S. 3 Olefin Production in the UK

Table S. 21: For each olefin production plant in the UK, the location, capacity, and production technology are provided. The plant in Wilton serves as a case study for our analysis (see Section 2.4 of the main manuscript).

| Company | Location | Technology | Capacity, $t yr^{-1}$ | Ref |
|------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Sabic | Wilton | Ethone one alvin a | 800,000 | (46,47) |
| ExxonMobil | Fife | Ethane cracking | 800,000 | (48) |
| Ineos | Grangemouth | Mixed alkane cracking | 700,000 | (49) |

S. 4 Economic Allocation Factor versus Cash Flow Analysis

The cash flow method often used in economic analyses and the economic allocation factor used in our work are in the following shown to be identical:

The levelised cost of ethylene with a constant annual cash flow is

$$LCOEt = \frac{OpEx + CapEx \cdot CRF - Revenue}{m_e}.$$
 (Eq. 22)

Revenue can be expressed as a function of LCOEt as

$$Revenue = \sum Cost_j \cdot m_j = LCOEt \cdot \sum \frac{Cost_j}{LCOEt} \cdot m_j = LCOEt \cdot \sum r_j \cdot m_j.$$
(Eq. 23)

Thus,

$$LCOEt + \frac{LCOEt \cdot \sum r_j \cdot m_j}{m_e} = \frac{OpEx + CapEx \cdot CRF}{m_e}$$
(Eq. 24)

$$LCOEt = \frac{OPEx + CaPEx \cdot CRF}{m_e} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\sum r_j \cdot m_j}{m_e}}$$
(Eq. 25)

$$= \frac{OpEx + CapEx \cdot CRF}{m_e} \cdot \frac{m_e}{m_e + \sum r_j \cdot m_j},$$
 (Eq. 26)

i.e. a scaling factor of

$$\frac{m_e}{m_e + \sum r_j \cdot m_j} = AF_{econ}.$$
(Eq. 27)

S. 5 Techno-Economic Assessment

The capital expenditures (*CapEx*), as described in Sections 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of the publication, are annualised using a uniform Capital Recovery Factor (*CRF*, Eq. 25) with interest rate r over the plant lifetime *LT* (50).

$$CRF = \frac{r(1+r)^{LT}}{(1+r)^{LT} - 1}$$
(Eq. 28)

The operational expenditures (*OpEx*, Eq. 26) comprise the variable utility costs and the fixed operating expenses for salaries (3%), maintenance (3%) and overheads (1%) ($f_{O\&M}$). The former are proportional to the annual production (m_k) and unit price ($Cost_k$) of each input and process emission $k \in \{CO_2, H_2, el, ww, tax\}$. The latter is set to 7% of the capital costs and assumed constant throughout the plant's lifetime (32).

$$OpEx = f_{O\&M}CapEx + \sum_{k} m_{k}Cost_{k}$$
(Eq. 29)

The revenue of each co-product $j \in \{CH_4, C_2H_6, C_3H_8, C_3H_6, C_{4+}, O_2\}$ is determined by its market price (*Price_j*) and annual production (m_j). Similarly, the revenue from selling ethylene is given by its market price (*Price_{C2H4}*) and annual production (m_{C2H4}). The general expression of AF_j is given in Eq. 27.

$$AF_j = \frac{m_j Price_j}{\sum_j m_j Price_j}$$
(Eq. 30)

In this work, the market price of the green co-products is assumed to increase alongside the price of green ethylene but their ratio ($Ratio_j$, Eq. 2 in the main text) is assumed to remain constant. Therefore, Eq. 27 is reformulated as a function of the price ratio between the co-products and ethylene in Eq. 3 of Section 2.2 in the publication.

S. 6 Detailed Energy and Mass Balances

The following tables provide the detailed mass and energy balances underlying the process inventories presented in Fig. 2 of the main manuscript. Inlet streams to the process carry a positive sign while outlet streams have negative signs. The production target is 1 tonne of ethylene and where applicable, the stage-1 process supplying the intermediate to the stage-2 process is scaled accordingly. As the stage-1 and stage-2 process are integrated, the process inventories only represent the net in- and outflow of the coupled processes. The capital expenditures are calculated for the ethylene production plant in Wilton (UK) with a capacity of 800 kt per year (see Section S. 3).

S. 6.1 MS + MTO

| Stream | I In:t | Process | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------|--------|
| | Unit | Unit MS | MTO |
| CO ₂ | | 8.87 | -0.08 |
| Air | | 4.92 | |
| H ₂ O | | | 1.52 |
| MeOH | | -6.07 | 6.07 |
| Ethylene | | | -1.00 |
| Ethane | | | -0.02 |
| Propylene | t t _e ⁻¹ | | -1.01 |
| Propane | | | -0.01 |
| C ₄₊ | | | -0.52 |
| CH ₄ | | | -0.06 |
| СО | | | -0.01 |
| CO ₂ | | -0.55 | |
| Wastewater | | -3.49 | -4.85 |
| Electricity | | 1.03 | 0.52 |
| H ₂ Heat | $MWh t_e^{-1}$ | 0.23 | 0.84 |
| H ₂ Feed | | 47.70 | |
| CapEx | M£ | 753.00 | 418.67 |

Table S.22: Detailed mass and energy balances of the MS & MTO process.

S. 6.2 CTM + OCM

| Stream | Unit | Process | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------|--------|
| | | СТМ | OCM |
| CO ₂ | | 5.71 | -1.12 |
| Air | | | 23.70 |
| H ₂ O | | | 6.10 |
| Total stream of intermediate | | -2.37 | 2.37 |
| CH ₄ | | -1.94 | 2.37 |
| CO ₂ | $t t_{e}^{-1}$ | -0.31 | |
| H ₂ O | | -0.02 | |
| H ₂ | | -0.07 | |
| O ₂ | | | |
| CO ₂ | | | -1.1 |
| Ethylene | | | -1.00 |
| Wastewater | | -4.41 | -9.79 |
| Electricity | | -4.83 | 4.24 |
| H ₂ Heat | $MWh t_e^{-1}$ | | |
| H ₂ Feed | | 41.84 | |
| CapEx | M£ | 361.76 | 851.11 |

Table S.23: Detailed mass and energy balances of CTM & OCM. The composition of the total intermediate stream is provided.

S. $6.3 \text{ eCH}_4 + \text{OCM}$

| Stream | Unit | Process | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------|--------|
| | | eCH4 | OCM |
| CO ₂ | | 7.33 | -1.12 |
| Air | | | 23.70 |
| H ₂ O | | 10.91 | 6.10 |
| Total stream of intermediate | | -2.37 | 2.37 |
| CH4 | | -1.96 | 2.37 |
| CO ₂ | $t t_e^{-1}$ | -0.40 | |
| H ₂ O | C | | |
| H ₂ | | | |
| O ₂ | | -9.70 | |
| Ethylene | | | -1.00 |
| CO ₂ | | -1.1 | |
| Wastewater | | -4.60 | -9.79 |
| Electricity | | 152.87 | 4.24 |
| H ₂ Heat | $MWh t_e^{-1}$ | 4.75 | |
| H ₂ Feed | | | |
| CapEx | M£ | 6952.22 | 851.11 |

Table S.24: Detailed mass and energy balances of eCH4 & OCM. The composition of the total intermediate stream is provided.

S. 6.4 eCO + S-FT

| Stream | Unit | Process | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------|---------|
| | | eCO | S-FT |
| CO ₂ | | 49.16 | -17.87 |
| H ₂ O | | 17.52 | |
| Syngas stream | | -36.04 | 36.04 |
| H ₂ | | -2.41 | 2.41 |
| CO | | -33.63 | 33.63 |
| O ₂ | | -15.58 | |
| Ethylene | | | -1.00 |
| Ethane | ++-1 | | -0.85 |
| Propylene | ιι _e | | -1.58 |
| Propane | | | -0.28 |
| butene | | | -0.75 |
| butane | | | -0.27 |
| C ₄₊ | | | -2.27 |
| CH ₄ | | | -9.28 |
| CO_2 | | | -8.79 |
| Wastewater | | -15.58 | -5.76 |
| Electricity | MWh t _e ⁻¹ | 182.29 | -15.91 |
| H ₂ Heat | | 70.74 | |
| H ₂ Feed | | 94.80 | |
| CapEx | M£ | 11943.42 | 1612.80 |

Table S.25: Detailed mass and energy balances of the eCO and S-FT process.

S. 6.5 eCO + S-eC₂H₄

| | TI.4 | Process | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Stream | Unit | eCO | S-eC ₂ H ₄ |
| CO ₂ | | 4.78 | |
| H ₂ O | | | 3.32 |
| СО | | -2.77 | 2.77 |
| O ₂ | t t _e ⁻¹ | -1.51 | -3.45 |
| Ethylene | | | -1.00 |
| CO ₂ | | | -1.05 |
| Wastewater | | -1.70 | -2.53 |
| Electricity | | 18.00 | 31.15 |
| H ₂ Heat | M W N t _e 1 | 3.80 | |
| CapEx | M£ | 1125.01 | 3759.55 |

Table S. 26: Detailed mass and energy balances of the eCO and S-eC₂H₄ processes.

S. 6.6 HTeCO + S-FT

| Stream | Unit | Process | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------|---------|
| | | HTeCO | S-FT |
| CO_2 | | 52.81 | -17.87 |
| H ₂ O | | | |
| Syngas stream | | -36.04 | 36.04 |
| H ₂ | | -2.41 | 2.41 |
| СО | | -33.63 | 33.63 |
| O ₂ | | -19.18 | |
| Ethylene | | | -1.00 |
| Ethane | ++-1 | | -0.85 |
| Propylene | ιι _e | | -1.58 |
| Propane | | | -0.28 |
| butene | | | -0.75 |
| butane | | | -0.27 |
| C ₄₊ | | | -2.27 |
| CH ₄ | | | -9.28 |
| CO ₂ | | | -8.79 |
| Wastewater | | | -5.76 |
| Electricity | MWh t _e ⁻¹ | 230.84 | -15.91 |
| H ₂ Heat | | | |
| H ₂ Feed | - | 94.80 | |
| CapEx | M£ | 36194.55 | 1612.80 |

Table S. 27: Detailed mass and energy balances of the HTeCO and S-FT processes.

S. 6.7 HTeCO + $S-eC_2H_4$

| | Unit | Process | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Stream | | HTeCO | S-eC ₂ H ₄ |
| CO ₂ | | 4.35 | |
| H ₂ O | | | 3.32 |
| СО | | -2.77 | 2.77 |
| O ₂ | t t _e ⁻¹ | -1.58 | -2.95 |
| Ethylene | | | -1.00 |
| CO_2 | | | -0.89 |
| Wastewater | | | -2.04 |
| Electricity | MWh t_e^{-1} | 17.74 | 31.15 |
| H ₂ Heat | | | |
| CapEx | M£ | 2781.88 | 3759.55 |

Table S. 28: Detailed mass and energy balances of the HTeCO and $S-eC_2H_4$ processes.

S. 6.8 D-FT

| Stream | Unit | D-FT |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CO_2 | | 18.27 |
| Air | | 32.65 |
| H ₂ O | | |
| O ₂ | | |
| Ethylene | | -1.00 |
| Ethane | | -0.26 |
| Propylene | | -1.36 |
| Propane | $t t_{-1}^{-1}$ | -0.29 |
| butene | c ce | -1.30 |
| butane | | -0.25 |
| C ₄₊ | | -0.49 |
| CO_2 | | Not determined due to lack of data |
| Wastewater | | Not determined due to lack of data |
| Electricity | | 0.07 |
| H ₂ Heat | MWh t _e ⁻¹ | 4.24 |
| H ₂ Feed | | 135.99 |
| CapEx | M£ | 5715.17 |

Table S. 29: Detailed mass and energy balances of the D-FT processes.

S. 6.9 D-eC₂H₄

| Stream | Unit | D-eC2H4 |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| CO ₂ | | 3.73 |
| Air | | |
| H ₂ O | | 5.84 |
| O ₂ | | -5.19 |
| Ethylene | | -1.00 |
| Ethane | t t _e ⁻¹ | |
| Propylene | | |
| Propane | | |
| butene | | |
| butane | | |
| C ₄₊ | | |
| CO ₂ | | -0.16 |
| Wastewater | - | -2.75 |
| Electricity | | 45.85 |
| H ₂ Heat | MWh t _e ⁻¹ | 4.58 |
| H ₂ Feed |] | |
| CapEx | M£ | 7535.06 |

Table S. 30: Detailed mass and energy balances of the D*-e* C_2H_4 *process.*

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