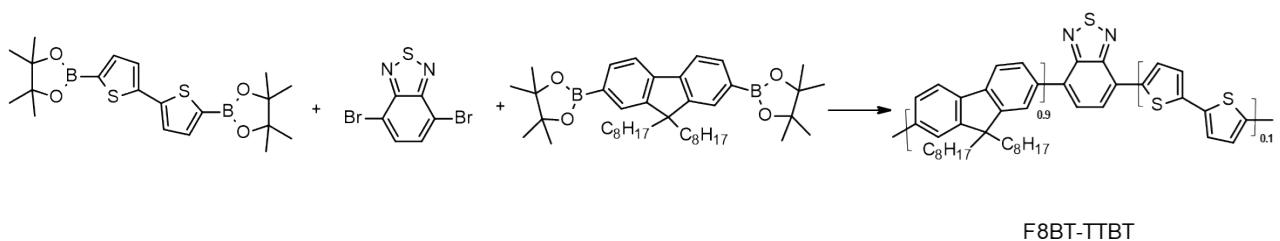


**Supporting Information**

**AZABODIPY aggregates as a promising electroluminescent material for sustainable NIR  
OLED applications**

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Scheme S1. Synthesis route of F8BT-TTBT polymer.

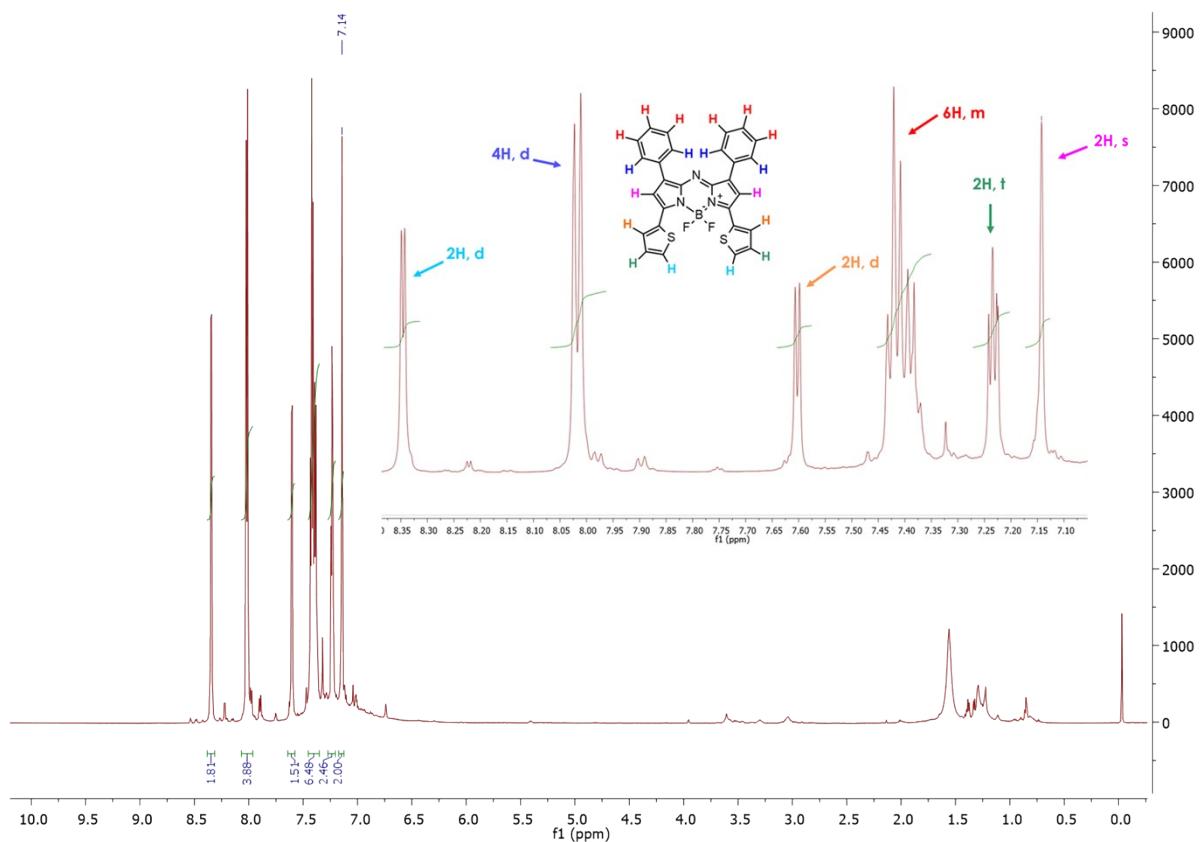


Fig. S1.  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of DTDPAB molecule.

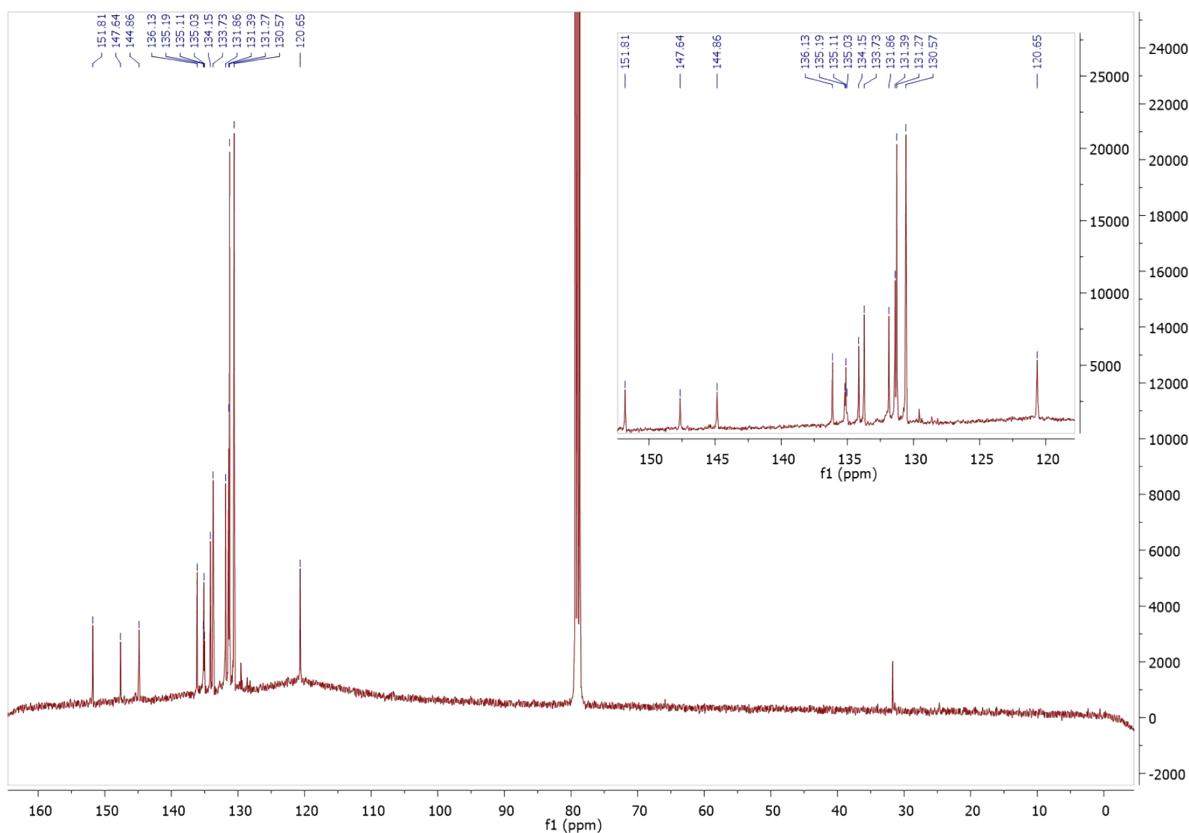


Fig. S2. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of DTDPAB molecule.

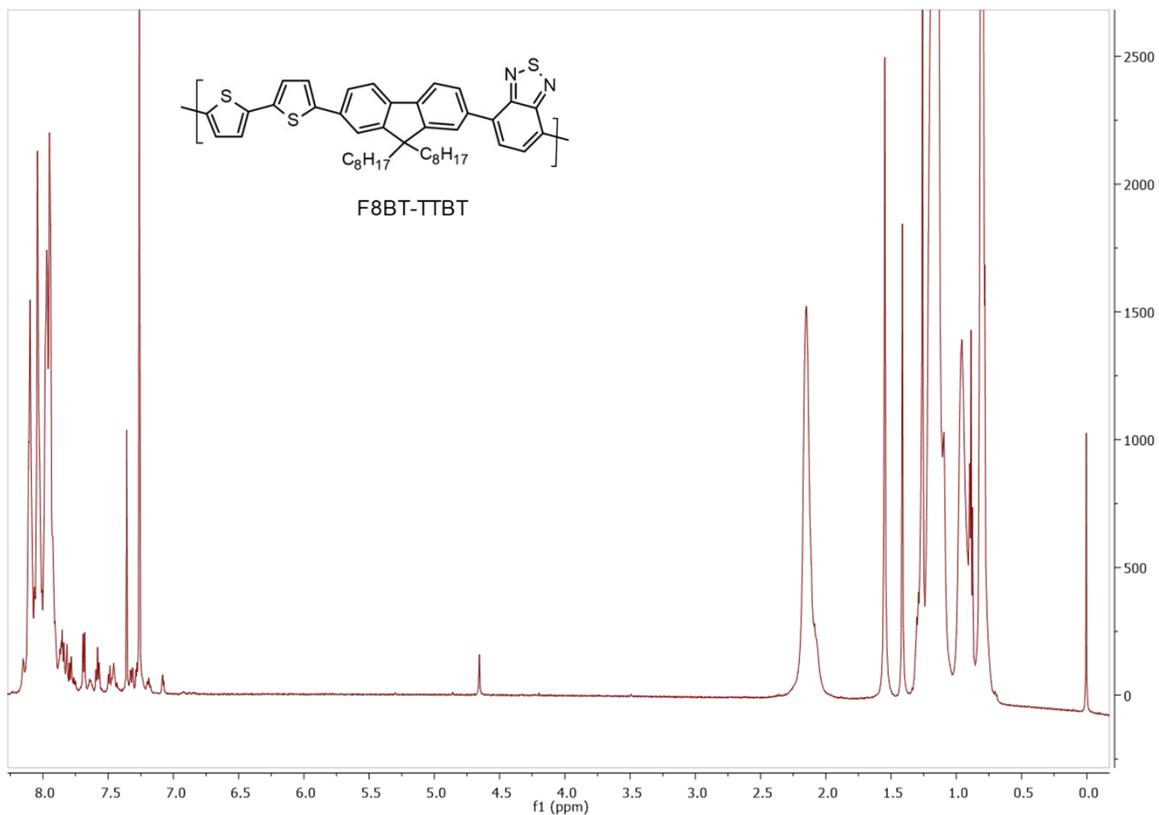


Fig. S3. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of F8BT-TTBT polymer.

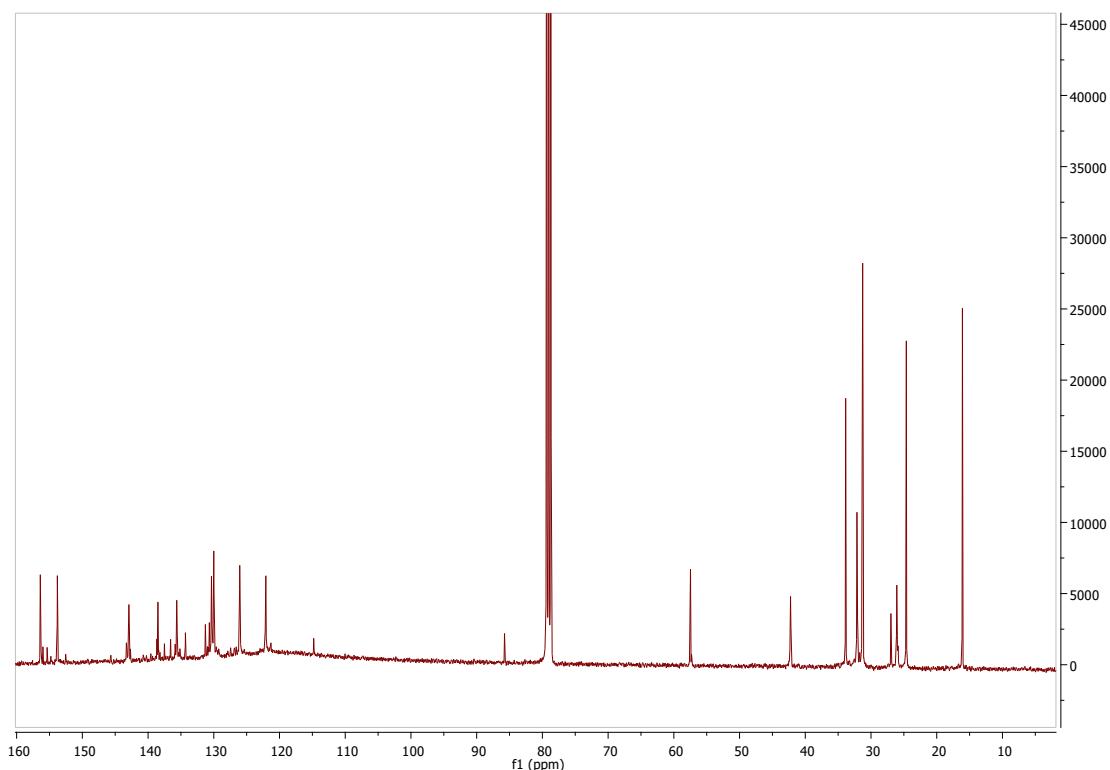


Fig. S4.  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of F8BT-TTBT polymer.

Table S1. Optical properties of DTDPAB in toluene and chloroform solutions at concentration  $10^{-5}\text{M}$  and as a dropcasted film.

|             | Absorption<br>(nm) | PLE max<br>(nm) | PL max<br>(nm) | PL QY (%)<br>exc. 488nm | $\tau_{\text{av}}$ (ns) (exc. 408nm) |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Toluene     | 721                | 345, 721        | 734            | $47 \pm 5$              | $3.03$ (734 nm); $3.04$ (820 nm)     |
| Chloroform  | 720                | 347, 719        | 733            | $43 \pm 4$              | $3.32$ (732 nm)                      |
| Casted film | 777                | -               | 930            | < 0.1                   | $304 \cdot 10^{-3}$                  |

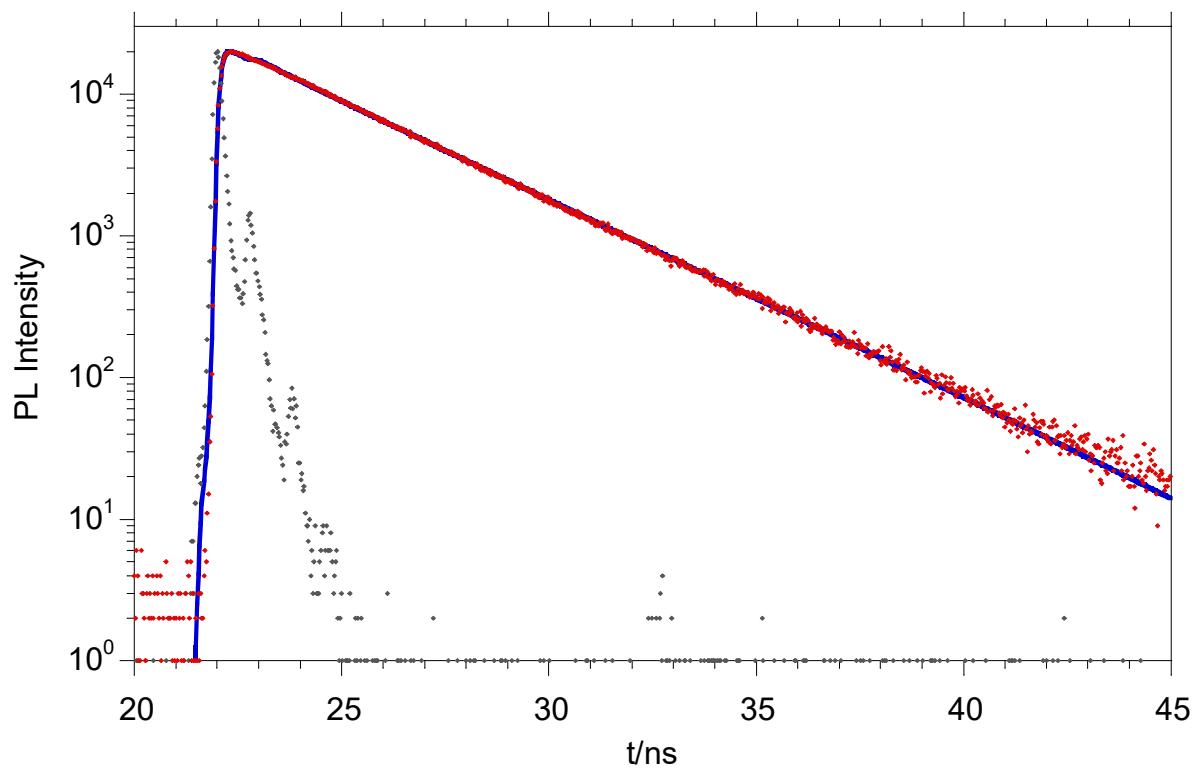


Fig. S5. PL decay of toluene solution of DTDPAB at 734nm, excited at 408nm. Bi-exponential fit ( $T_1 = 5.374469\text{E-}10$  sec,  $T_2 = 3.122783\text{E-}09$  sec,  $B_1 = 2.489714\text{E-}02$  [3.40 Rel. Ampl],  $B_2 = 0.1217602$  [96.60 Rel. Ampl], CHISQ = 2.27528).

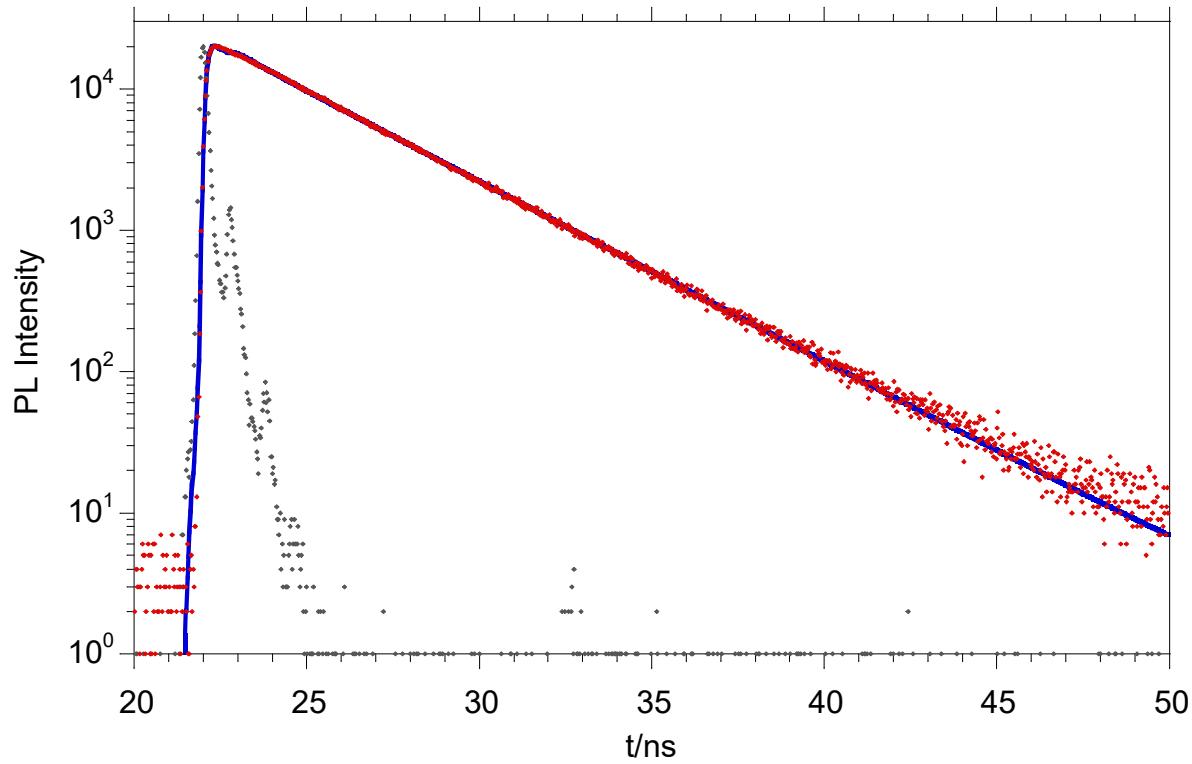


Fig. S6. PL decay of chloroform solution of DTDPAB at 732nm, excited at 408nm. Bi-exponential fit ( $T_1 = 5.447399\text{E-}10$  sec,  $T_2 = 3.404215\text{E-}09$  sec,  $B_1 = 2.328718\text{E-}02$  [2.96 Rel. Ampl],  $B_2 = 0.1221145$  [97.04 Rel. Ampl], CHISQ = 2.05874).

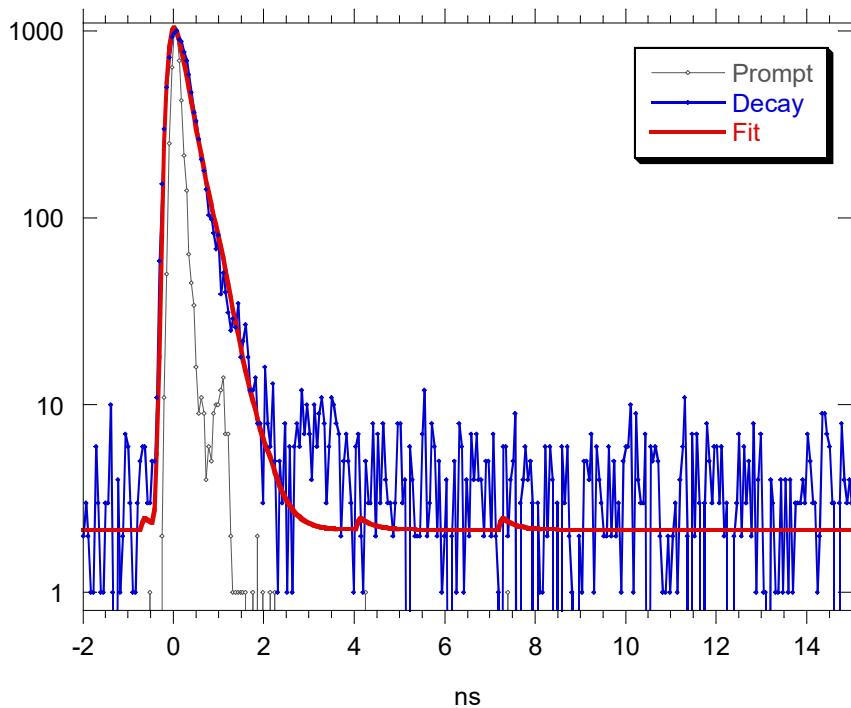


Fig. S7. PL decay of a cast film of DTDPAB at 840nm, excited at 407nm. The red line is a monoexponential fit (lifetime 304 ps, CHISQ = 1.778482). Fitting parameters T1 = 3.04299E-10 sec, S. Dev = 5.709041E-12 sec, A = 1.996751, S. Dev = 5.288644E-02, B1 = 0.4585481, [100.00 Rel. Ampl], S. Dev = 4.40858E-03, CHISQ = 1.778482, [ 829 degrees of freedom].

Table S2. Oxidation and reduction potentials derived from cyclovoltammetry, HOMO and LUMO energy levels, absorption maxima and energy band gaps derived from optical and electrochemical measurements of F8BT, F8BT-TTBT and DTDPAB. HOMO and LUMO energy levels were estimated according to  $E_{HOMO/LUMO} = -4.39 + (0.34 + E_{ox/red})$ , where  $E_{ox/red}$  are the onset oxidation and reduction potential, respectively, vs Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup> electrode (0.34 V vs SCE).<sup>1</sup> The precision of the measurement was  $\pm 0.01$  V.

| Sample    | $E_{ox}$ (V) | $E_{red}$ (V) | HOMO (eV) | LUMO (eV) | $\lambda_{max}$ (nm) | $E_{gopt}$ (eV) | $E_{gel}$ (eV) |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| F8BT      | 0.99         | -1.84         | -5.72     | -2.89     | 324; 455             | 2.73            | 2.83           |
| F8BT-TTBT | 0.97         | -1.8          | -5.70     | -2.93     | 319; 450; 530        | 2.34            | 2.77           |
| DTDPAB    | 0.57         | -0.65         | -5.30     | -4.08     | 321; 453             | 1.72            | 1.22           |

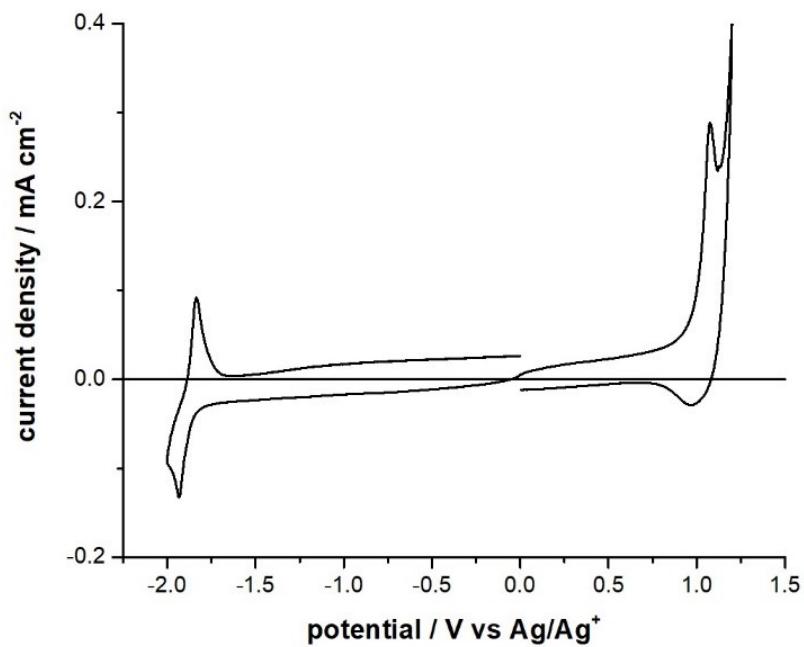


Fig S8. Cyclic Voltammogram of F8BT polymer in acetonitrile + 0.1 M Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>. Scan rate: 0.1 V s<sup>-1</sup>.

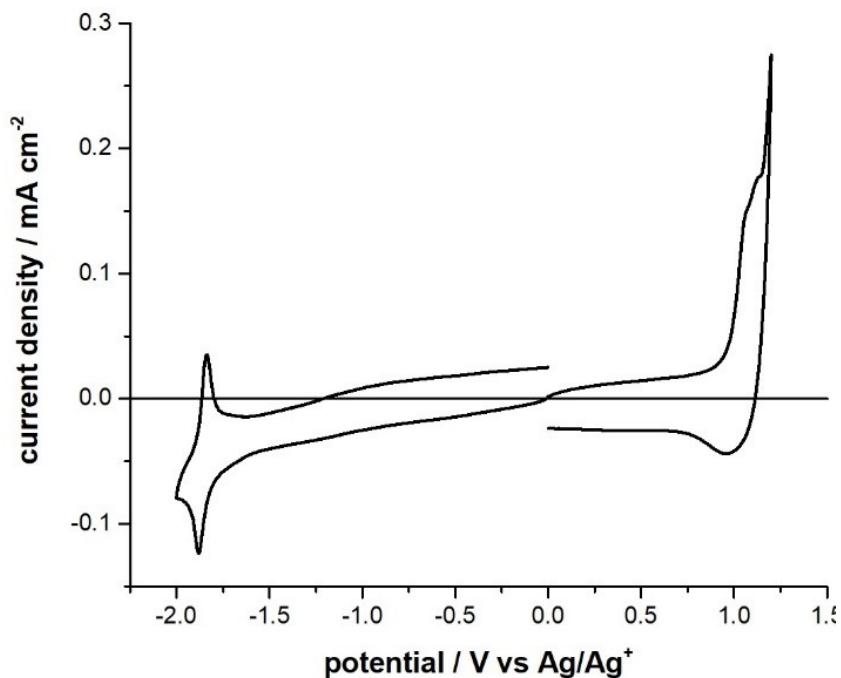


Fig. S9. Cyclic Voltammogram of F8BT-TTBT polymer in acetonitrile + 0.1 M Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>. Scan rate: 0.1 V s<sup>-1</sup>.

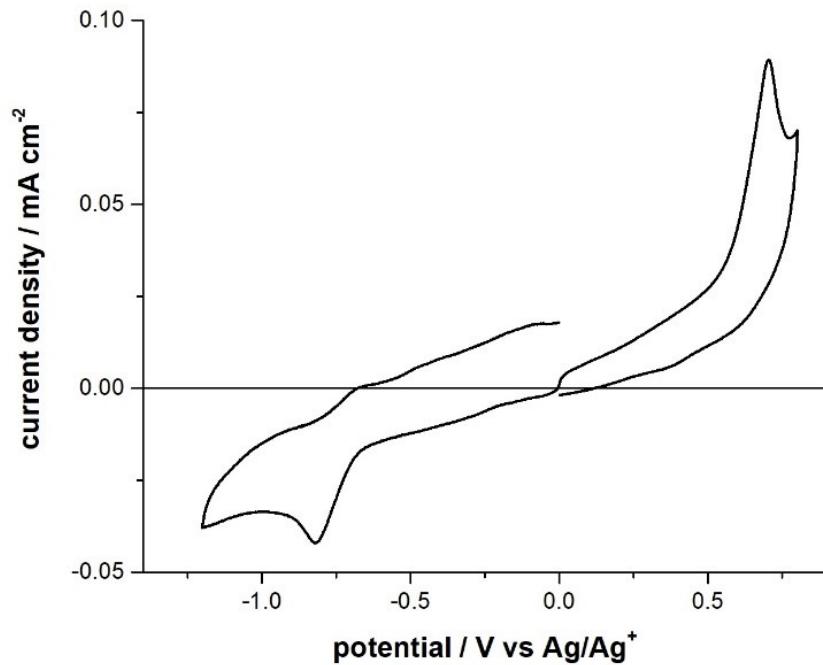


Fig S10. Cyclic Voltammograms of DTDPAB molecule, in acetonitrile + 0.1 M  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NClO}_4$ . Scan rate: 0.1 V s<sup>-1</sup>.

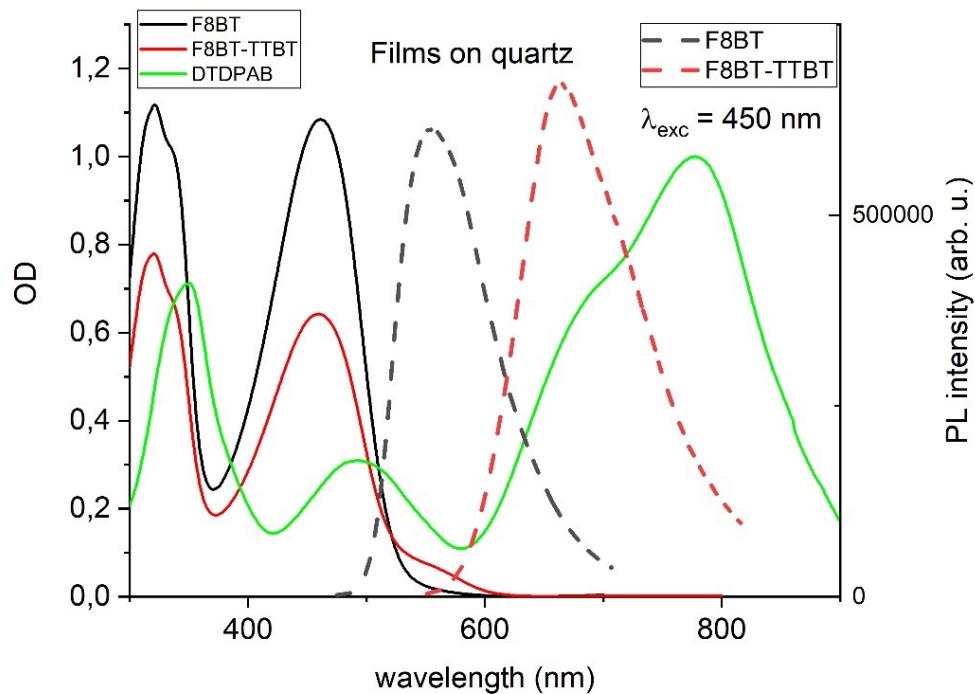


Fig. S11. Absorption of F8BT, F8BT-TTBT and DTDPAB films (solid lines) and PL of F8BT and F8BT-TTBT films (dashed lines). The overlap of DTDPAB absorption and the polymers PL is better for F8BT-TTBT.

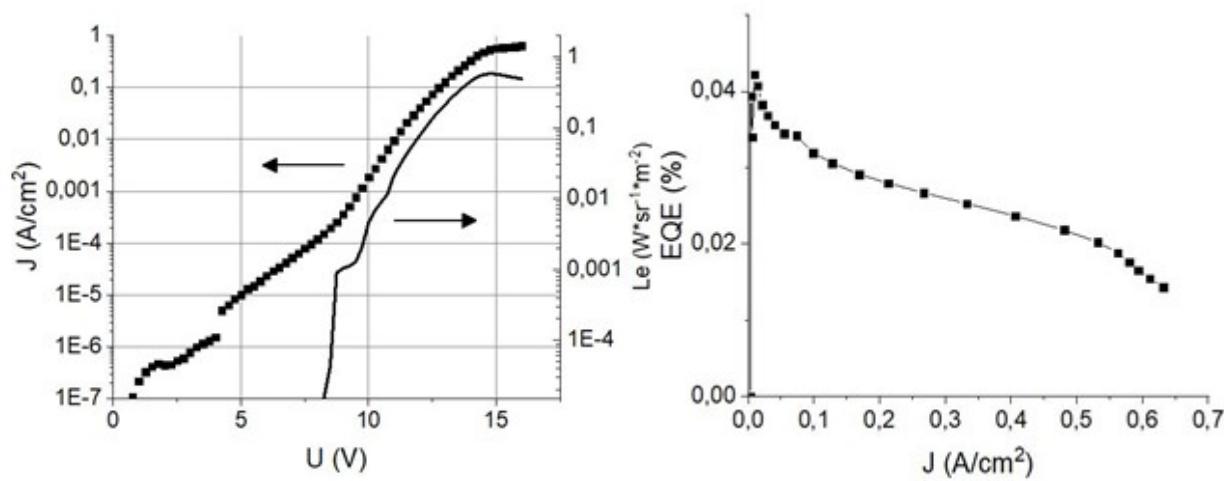


Fig. S12. J-V- $L_e$  curves and EQE of ITO / PEDOT:PSS / PVK / 95% F8BT : 5% DTDPAB / Ba / Al device.

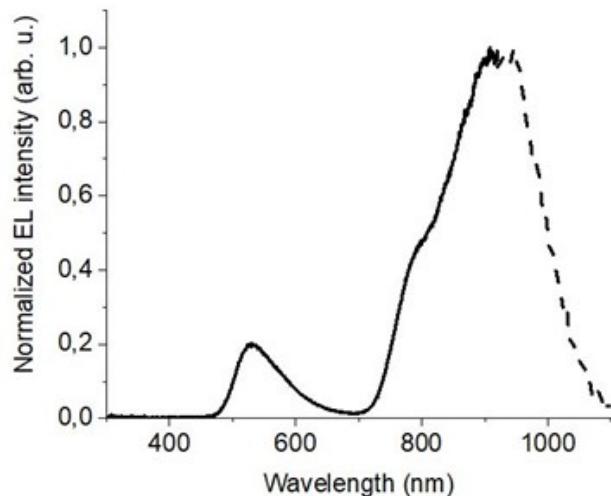


Figure S13. EL at 100  $\text{mA}/\text{cm}^2$  of ITO / PEDOT:PSS / PVK / 20% F8BT : 80% DTDPAB / Ba / Al device. Dashed line shows simulated extrapolation of the spectrum.

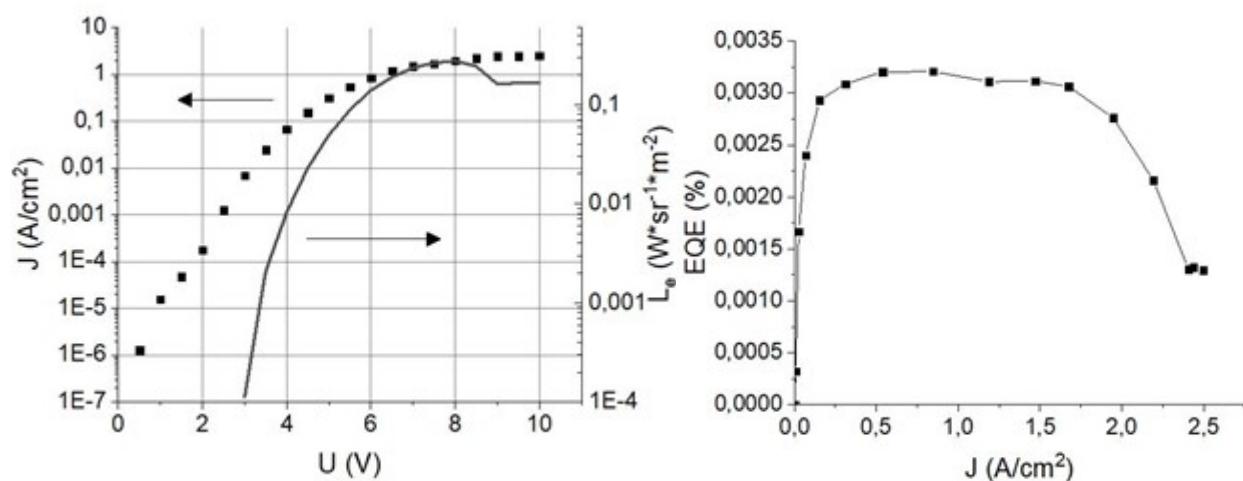


Figure S14. J-V- $L_e$  curves and EQE of ITO / PEDOT:PSS / PVK / 20% F8BT : 80% DTDPAB / Ba / Al device.

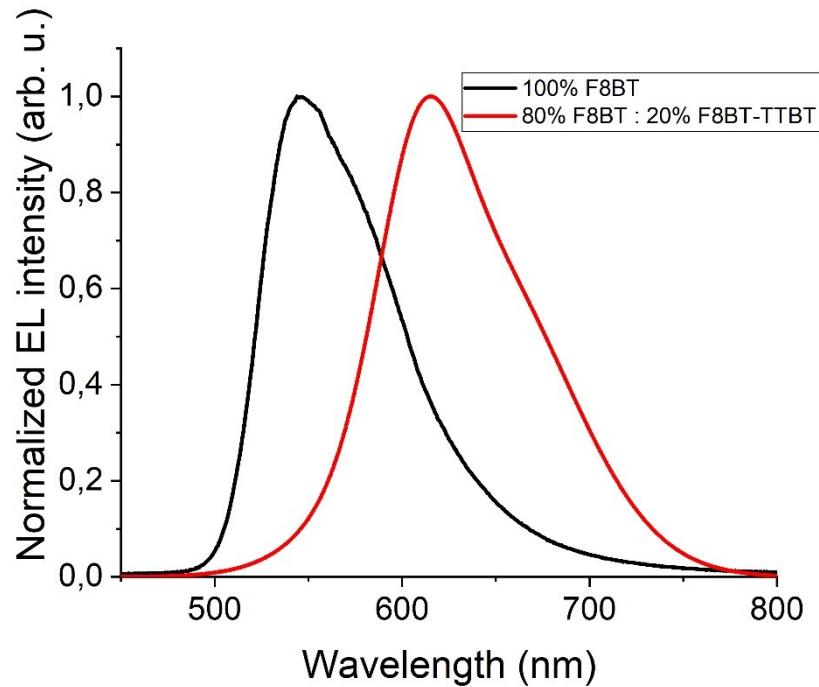


Fig. S15. Normalized electroluminescence spectra of devices with the emitting layers consisting of 100% F8BT and 80% F8BT : 20% F8BT-TTBT.

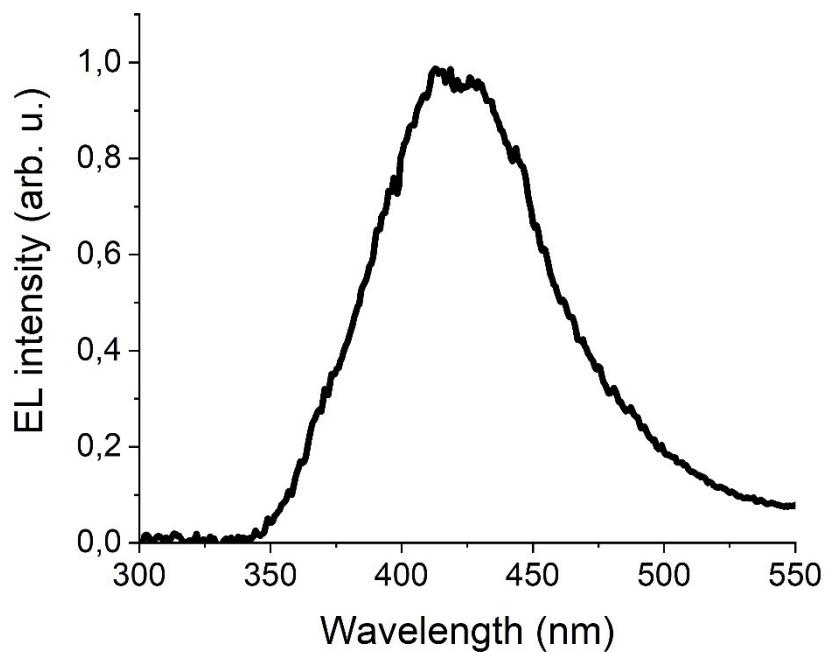


Figure S16. EL spectrum of a device with neat PVK as the emitter.

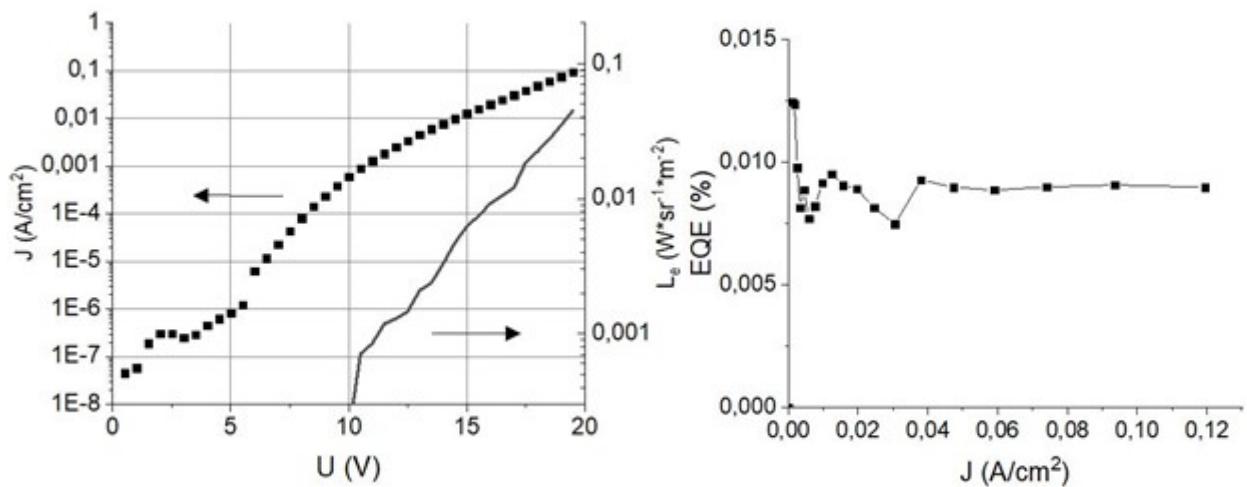


Figure S17. J-V- $L_e$  curves and EQE of ITO / PEDOT:PSS / PVK / 40% F8BT : 10% F8BT-TTBT : 50% DTDPAB / TPBi / Ba / Al device.

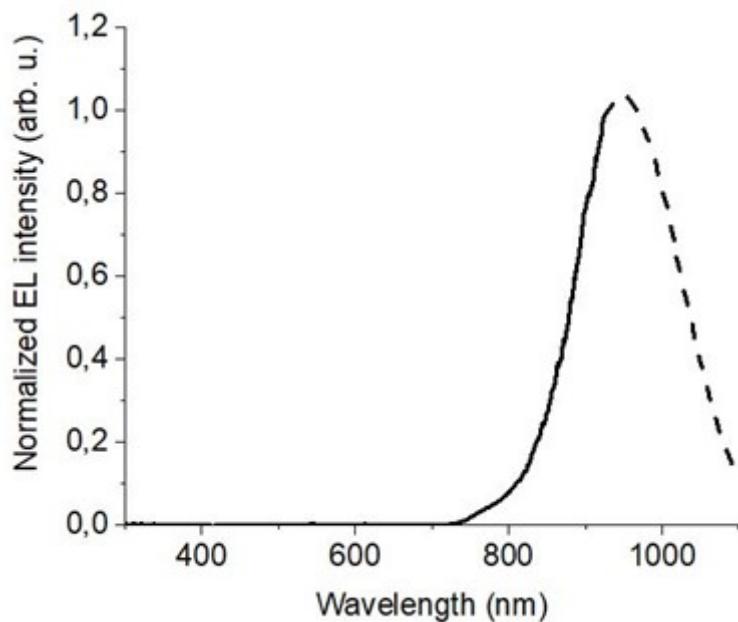


Figure S18. EL at  $100 \text{ mA}/\text{cm}^2$  of ITO / ZnO / PEIE / 40% F8BT : 10% F8BT-TTBT : 50% DTDPAB / CBP /  $\text{MoO}_3$  / Al device. Dashed line shows simulated extrapolation of the spectrum.

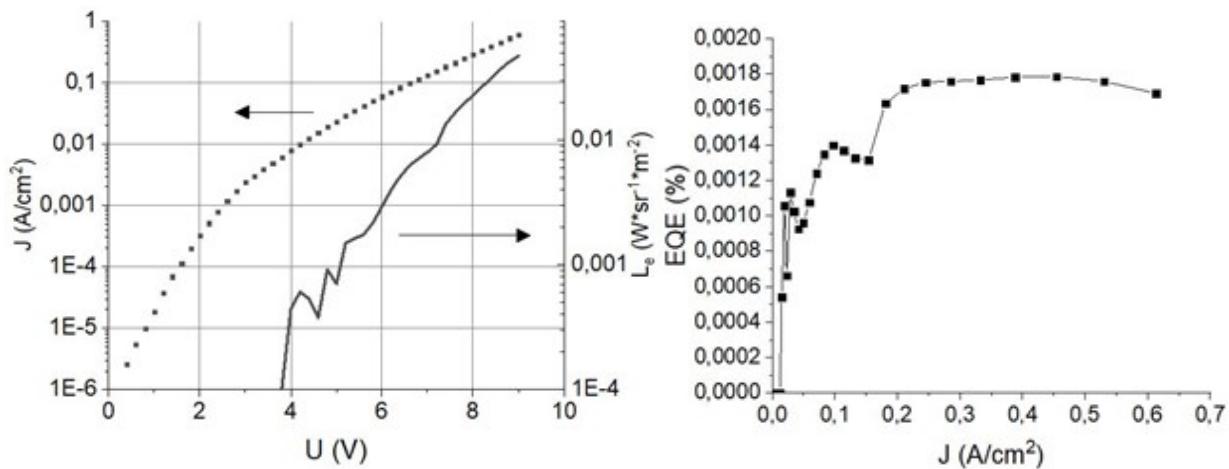


Figure S19. J-V- $L_e$  curves and EQE of ITO / ZnO / PEIE / 40% F8BT : 10% F8BT-TTBT : 50% DTDPAB / CBP / MoO<sub>3</sub> / Al device.

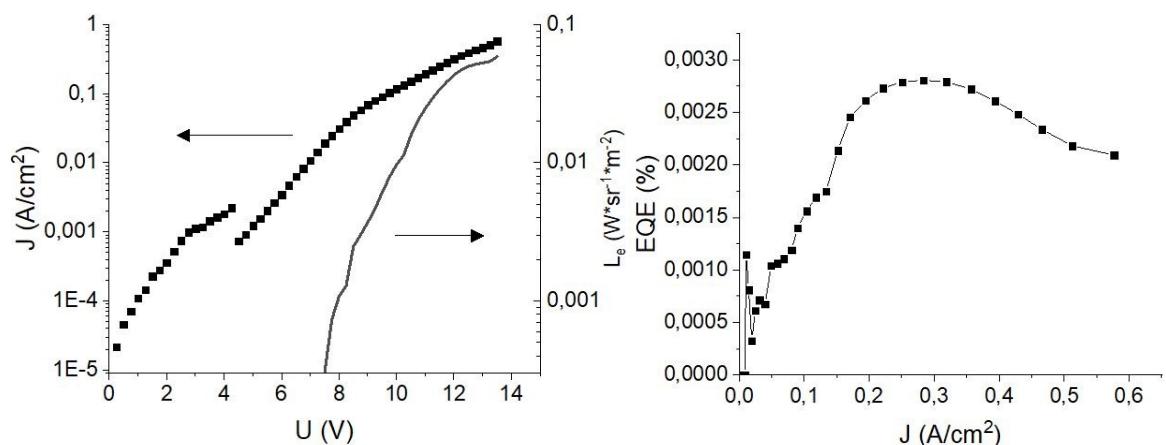


Figure S20. J-V- $L_e$  curves and EQE of ITO / ZnO / PEIE / 40% F8BT : 10% F8BT-TTBT : 50% DTDPAB / CBP / Au device.

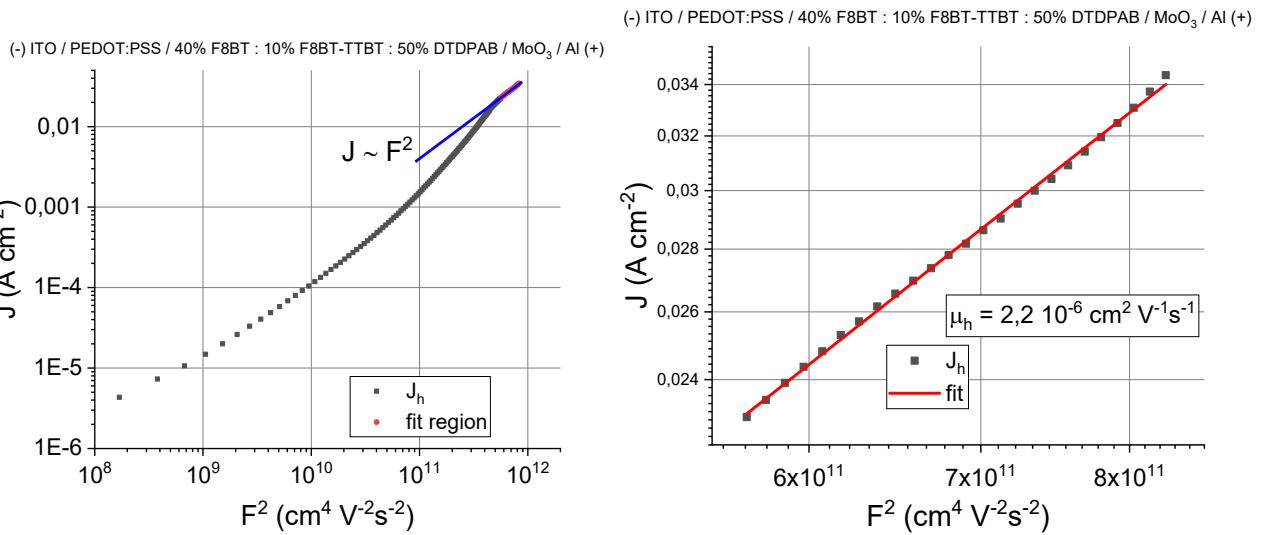


Figure S21. J-F<sup>2</sup> curve of the hole-only device ITO / PEDOT:PSS / 40% F8BT : 10% F8BT-TTBT : 50% DTDPAB / MoO<sub>3</sub> / Al and the best linear fit with the Mott-Gurney law to the hole current density in the electric field range where space charge limited current was recorded ( $J \sim F^2$ ).

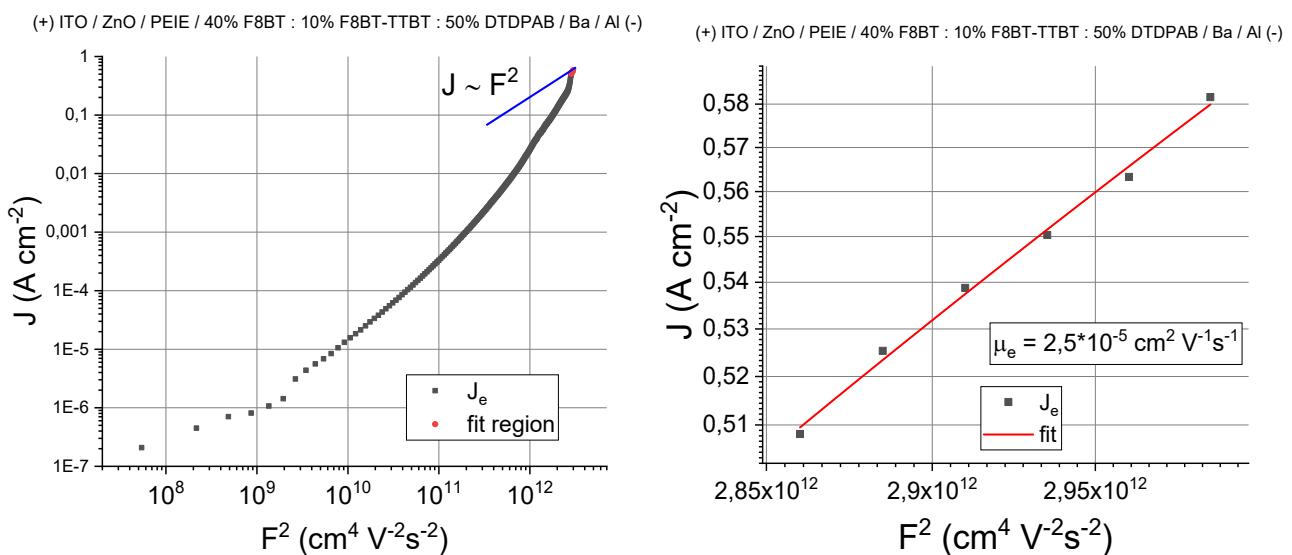


Figure S22. J-F<sup>2</sup> curve of the electron-only device ITO / ZnO / PEIE / 40% F8BT : 10% F8BT-TTBT : 50% DTDPAB / Ba / Al and the best linear fit with the Mott-Gurney law to the electron current density in the electric field range where space charge limited current was recorded ( $J \sim F^2$ ).

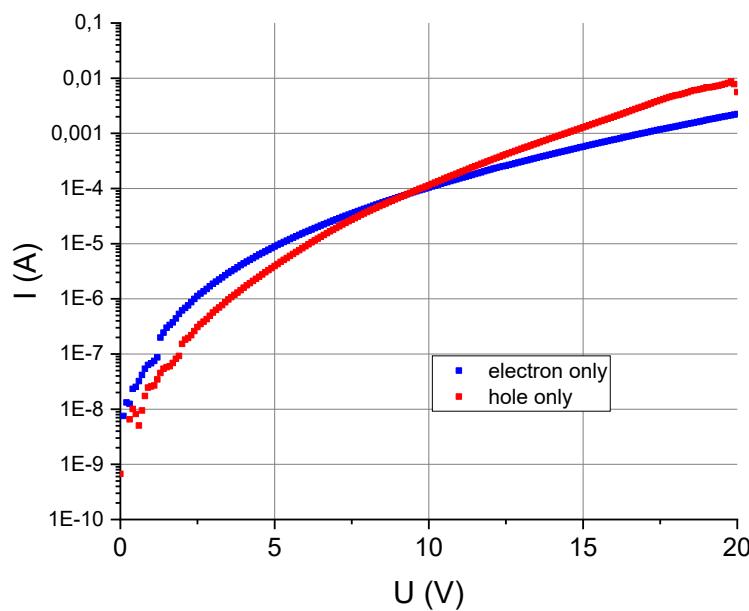


Figure S23. Electron and hole currents in the electron-only device ITO / ZnO / PEIE / 40% F8BT : 10% F8BT-TTBT : 50% DTDPAB / CBP / Ba / Al and hole-only device ITO / PEDOT:PSS / 40% F8BT : 10% F8BT-TTBT : 50% DTDPAB / CBP / MoO<sub>3</sub> / Al.

## References

- 1 M. D. Iosip, S. Destri, M. Pasini, W. Porzio, K. P. Pernstich and B. Batlogg, *Synthetic Metals*, 2004, **146**, 251–257.