

Supplementary Information

**A mini-review on performance metrics for electrochemically
mediated ammonia recovery from wastewater**

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Table S1. Detailed parameters for calculation of productivity.

Sources	Initial ammonia concentration (mM)	Projected area (cm ²)	Flow rate (mL min ⁻¹) ^a	Nitrogen flux (g N m ⁻² d ⁻¹)	Current density (A m ⁻²)	Ammonia removal	Membranes used ^b	Productivity (mmol N g ⁻¹ membrane h ⁻¹) [*]	Energy consumption (kWh kg ⁻¹ N)	References
Electrolysis										
Anaerobic digestate	151	64	0.3	51	10	38%	1 CEM	1.2	13.1	1
				90	20	58%		2.0	16.7	
				94	30	63%		2.1	26.0	
Urine	364	64	0.3	235	40	76%	1 CEM	5.3	14.7	2
	343			275		75%		6.2	12.7	
Source-separated urine	392	100	0.6	N.A. ^c	20	87%	1 CEM	9.1	2.9 ^e	3
						67% ^d		7.0	3.6	
Urine	243	100	0.2	78	10	82%	1 CEM	1.8	8.5	4
			0.4	151	20	73%		3.4	7.3	
			1.0	342	50	73%		7.7	15.6	
Urine	236	100	0.2	82	20	89%	1 CEM	1.8	4.0	5
			1.1	335	50	63%		7.6	3.9	
			0.2	89	50	92%		2.0	13.2	
Urine	535	64	1.7	1710	100	60%	1 CEM	38.6	8.5	6
Urine	330	100	0.9	N.A. ^c	20	49%	1 CEM	6.4	4.6	7
						45%		5.8	5.9	
Anaerobic digestate	263	40	1.1	N.A. ^c	200	86% ^f	1 CEM	28.4	11.6	8

Sources	Initial ammonia concentration (mM)	Projected area (cm ²)	Flow rate (mL min ⁻¹) ^a	Nitrogen flux (g N m ⁻² d ⁻¹)	Current density (A m ⁻²)	Ammonia removal	Membranes used ^b	Productivity (mmol N g ⁻¹ membrane h ⁻¹)*	Energy consumption (kWh kg ⁻¹ N)	References
Anaerobic digestate	57	10	0.1	N.A. ^c	13	99% ^g	1 CEM 1 AEM	1.3	8.2	9
			0.2		25	99% ^g		2.7	12.2 ^h	
			0.4		50	98% ^g		5.3	17.0 ^h	
			0.6		75	96% ^g		7.8	19.7 ^h	
			0.8		100	94% ^g		9.2	29.5	
Urine	360	64	0.5	N.A. ^c	100	83%	1 CEM	10.7	17.0	10
Synthetic livestock wastewater	200	40	1.7	N.A. ^c	63	23%	1 CEM	8.8	8.7	11
					125	38%		14.3	13.1 ⁱ	
					250	48%		18.1	23.6 ⁱ	
Bipolar membrane electrodialysis										
Synthetic sludge reject water	84	64	1.1	N.A. ^c	N.A. ^c	85%	1 CEM 1 AEM 1 BPM	1.4	5.3	12
Synthetic dewatering centrate	111	100	1.2	202	25	81%	1 CEM 1 BPM	1.5	3.4	13
			2.3	364	50	74%		2.7	4.7	
			4.7	819	100	78%		6.2	5.1	
Dewatering centrate	85	37	2.4	N.A. ^c	26 V ^j	60% ^k	1 CEM 1 BPM	5.0	16.1 ^l	14
			2.4		35 V ^j	95%		7.9	13.0 ^k	
			4.8		35V ^j	87%		14.5	7.7	
			4.8		26 V ^j	43% ^k		7.1	11.5 ^l	

Sources	Initial ammonia concentration (mM)	Projected area (cm ²)	Flow rate (mL min ⁻¹) ^a	Nitrogen flux (g N m ⁻² d ⁻¹)	Current density (A m ⁻²)	Ammonia removal	Membranes used ^b	Productivity (mmol N g ⁻¹ membrane h ⁻¹) [*]	Energy consumption (kWh kg ⁻¹ N)	References
Dewatering centrate	85	37	5.7	N.A. ^c	30 V ^j	50%	1 CEM 1 BPM	10.0	14.4 ^m	15
			4.5			60%		9.4	15.0	
			3.0			70%		7.3	18.7 ^m	
			3.2		20 V ^j	50%		5.7	9.6 ^m	
			2.4			60%		5.0	10.2 ^m	
			1.2			70%		2.9	17.8 ^m	
Synthetic urine	269	50	1.2	739	200	68%	1 CEM 1 AEM 1 BPM	4.2	7.2 ⁿ	16
Anaerobic digestate	35	484	24.2	179	50	53%	1 CEM 1 BPM	1.3	11.8	17
			31.1	144	50	34% ^o		1.1	17.7	
			36.2	193	75	41% ^o		1.5	35.8	
Synthetic dewatering centrate	50	29	1.7	431	84	75%	1 CEM 1 AEM 1 BPM	2.4	8.0 ⁿ	18
			1.0	264	51	76%		1.5	5.9 ⁿ	
Flow-electrode capacitive deionization										
Synthetic domestic wastewater	2.9	35	2.6	36	12	79% ^p	1 CEM 1 AEM	0.4	6.0 ^q	19
			1.7	27	12	90% ^p		0.3	13.1 ^q	
			1.3	22	12	96% ^p		0.2	25.1 ^q	
Domestic wastewater	3.0	58	1.7	13	6.8	75% ^r	1 CEM 1 AEM	0.1	18.9 ^t	20
Synthetic urine	268		0.4	265	27	82% ^s		3.0	7.8 ^t	

Sources	Initial ammonia concentration (mM)	Projected area (cm ²)	Flow rate (mL min ⁻¹) ^a	Nitrogen flux (g N m ⁻² d ⁻¹)	Current density (A m ⁻²)	Ammonia removal	Membranes used ^b	Productivity (mmol N g ⁻¹ membrane h ⁻¹) [*]	Energy consumption (kWh kg ⁻¹ N)	References
Synthetic domestic wastewater	1.4	35	1.8	N.A. ^c	1.2 V ^j	87%	1 CEM 1 AEM	0.1	4.7 ^u	21
Synthetic domestic wastewater	3.1	35	1.7	N.A. ^c	6.0	75% ^v	1 CEM 1 AEM	0.3	35.4	22
Synthetic gray water	18	24	1.0	N.A. ^c	9.8	41% 60%	1 CEM 1 AEM	0.7 1.1	4.5 2.0	23
Proton-coupled electron transfer										
Synthetic domestic wastewater	5.0	7	0.5	30	4.8	44% ^w	2 CEMs	0.3	1.2	24
				34	9.6	50% ^w		0.4	3.2	
				39	19	57% ^w		0.4	12.6	
Prussian blue analogues (electrode)										
Domestic wastewater	3.4	7	0.3	N.A. ^c	0.2 V ^j	85%	1 AEM	0.6	1.5	25
Synthetic domestic wastewater	5.0	7	0.3	N.A. ^c	0.3 V ^j	100%	1 AEM	1.0	2.4	26
Synthetic domestic wastewater	5.0	7	0.3	N.A. ^c	0.3 V ^j	100%	1 AEM	1.0	1.0	27
	10					70%		1.4	0.6	
	17					47%		1.6	0.4	

Sources	Initial ammonia concentration (mM)	Projected area (cm ²)	Flow rate (mL min ⁻¹) ^a	Nitrogen flux (g N m ⁻² d ⁻¹)	Current density (A m ⁻²)	Ammonia removal	Membranes used ^b	Productivity (mmol N g ⁻¹ membrane h ⁻¹) [*]	Energy consumption (kWh kg ⁻¹ N)	References
Synthetic domestic wastewater	5.0	9	3	N.A. ^c	0.5 V ^j	80%	1 AEM	6.1	1.1	28
Synthetic domestic wastewater	10	64	9	N.A. ^c	0.1 V ^j	21% ^x	1 AEM	1.3	0.2 ^y	29
					0.4 V ^j	63% ^x		4.0	1.1 ^y	
					0.8 V ^j	78% ^x		5.0	2.1 ^y	
					1.2 V ^j	57% ^x		3.6	5.3 ^y	
Prussian blue analogues (membrane)										
Synthetic domestic wastewater	5.0	7	0.3	13 ^{aa}	3.4	42%	1 CEM	0.3	11.8	30
Domestic wastewater	4.4 ^z	7	0.3	21 ^{aa}	3.4	64%		0.5	9.9	

*Productivity was calculated using Eq. 1 in the main text, wherein the concentration of separated ammonia was calculated from the initial ammonia concentration and ammonia removal.

^aFor batch mode experiments, the flow rate was calculated based on the volume of treated wastewater, the running time, and the number of repeating units.

^bFor multiple cell-pair configurations, the repeating unit was considered.

^cNot available.

^dEstimated from Figure 2.

^eEstimated from SI Table S7.

^fEstimated from Figure 4a.

^gEstimated from Figure 2a.

^hEstimated from Figure 3a.

ⁱEstimated from Figure 2d.

^jApplied voltage.

^kEstimated from Figure 3.

^lEstimated from Figure 5.

^mEstimated from Figure 7.

ⁿExcluding energy for electrodes.

^oEstimated from Figure 2a.

^pEstimated from Figure 3b.

^qEstimated from SI Table S1.

^rEstimated from SI Figure S9a.

^sEstimated from SI Figure S10.

^tEstimated from Figure 5b.

^uEstimated from Figure 5d.

^vEstimated from SI Figure S1b.

^wEstimated from Figure 3d.

^xEstimated from SI Figure S5a.

^yEstimated from Figure 3c.

^zEstimated from Figure 3.

^{aa}Estimated from Figure 2a.

Table S2. Productivity and capital-cost-based productivity for Fe-based Haber-Bosch processes from literature.

Catalysts	Productivity (mmol N g ⁻¹ catalyst h ⁻¹)	Productivity (mmol N \$ ⁻¹ catalyst h ⁻¹) ^a	Capital-cost-based productivity (mmol N \$ ⁻¹ h ⁻¹) ^b	References
7% Fe/CeO ₂	0.2	7.8	0.04	31
20% Fe–BaH ₂	1.7	85.2	0.4	32
2.8% Fe/γ-Al ₂ O ₃	1.2 × 10 ⁻⁴	6 × 10 ⁻³	3 × 10 ⁻⁵	33
Fe (95%) Co (5%)	0.8	41	0.2	34
1.2% Fe/BaCeO _{3-x} H _y N _z	6.8	340	1.7	35
Fe ₉₁ Zr ₉	0.07	3.6	0.02	36
Fe–5LiH	4.8	242	1.2	37
Fe/LiH	11.4	571.4	2.9	38
10% Fe/C	14.4	720	3.6	39
80% Fe/Ce _{0.8} Sm _{0.2} O _{2-δ}	8.7	435	2.2	40
FePc	14	700	3.5	41
Fe-Metal organic framework	30.4	1520	7.6	42
Fe _{1-x} O	11.9	595	3.0	43
1% Fe/BaTiO _{3-x} H _x	14	700	3.5	44
FeOOH/Al ₂ O ₃	32.9	1642.5	8.2	45
FeO Fe ²⁺ /Fe ³⁺ = 4.62	96.5	4825	24.1	46
Fe-cat. (KMI)	37.8	1890	9.5	47
A301 catalyst (FeO)	22.3	1115	5.6	48
Fe-based K/Fe/MWNT	0.1	6.5	0.03	49
KMI (Fe catalyst)	33.5	1674.1	8.4	50
Average	17.1	855.7	4.3	

^aThe productivity (mmol N \$⁻¹ catalyst h⁻¹) was converted from the mass-based productivity (mmol N g⁻¹ catalyst h⁻¹) the price of KM1R (0.02 USD/g).⁵¹

^bThe capital-cost-based productivity (mmol N \$⁻¹ h⁻¹) was converted from the productivity (mmol N \$⁻¹ h⁻¹) based on the ratio of catalyst to capital cost in iron-based Haber-Bosch process (0.5%).⁵²

Table S3. Productivity and capital-cost-based productivity for IEM-based electrochemical processes.

References	Productivity ($\text{mmol N m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$)	Membranes used ^a	Productivity ($\text{mmol N \$}^{-1} \text{ membrane h}^{-1}$) ^b	Capital-cost-based productivity ($\text{mmol N \$}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$) ^c
Electrolysis				
1	152.6	1 CEM	2.5	0.5
	266.8		4.4	0.9
	281.0		4.7	1.0
2	699.4	1 CEM	11.7	2.4
	818.5		13.6	2.9
3	1198.4	1 CEM	20.0	4.2
	921.9		15.4	3.2
4	233.0	1 CEM	3.9	0.8
	449.4		7.5	1.6
	1018.2		17.0	3.6
5	244.0	1 CEM	4.1	0.9
	997.0		16.6	3.5
	264.9		4.4	0.9
6	5089.3	1 CEM	84.8	17.8
7	849.3	1 CEM	14.2	3.0
	767.6		12.8	2.7
8	3748.3	1 CEM	62.5	13.1
9	352.1	1 CEM 1 AEM	2.9	0.6
	704.3		5.9	1.2
	1397.1		11.6	2.4
	2059.3		17.2	3.6
	2441.6		20.3	4.3
10	1407.4	1 CEM	23.5	4.9

References	Productivity (mmol N m ⁻² h ⁻¹)	Membranes used ^a	Productivity (mmol N \$ ⁻¹ membrane h ⁻¹) ^b	Capital-cost-based productivity (mmol N \$ ⁻¹ h ⁻¹) ^c
11	1155	1 CEM	19.3	4.0
	1882.5		31.4	6.6
	2385		39.8	8.3
	Average		18.1	3.8
Bipolar membrane electrodialysis				
12	748.0	1 CEM, 1 AEM, 1 BPM	3.1	0.7
13	601.5	1 CEM 1 BPM	3.3	0.7
	1081.8		6.0	1.3
	2437.8		13.5	2.8
	1983.3		11.0	2.3
14	3140.2	1 CEM 1 BPM	17.4	3.7
	5751.5		32.0	6.7
	2822.9		15.7	3.3
	3966.6		22.0	4.6
15	3718.7	1 CEM 1 BPM	20.7	4.3
	2892.3		16.1	3.4
	2253.7		12.5	2.6
	1983.3		11.0	2.3
	1156.9		6.4	1.3
	2200		9.2	1.9
17	532.1	1 CEM 1 BPM	3.0	0.6
	429.2		2.4	0.5
	575.3		3.2	0.7
18	1282.7	1 CEM 1 AEM 1 BPM	5.3	1.1
	785.7		3.3	0.7

References	Productivity ($\text{mmol N m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$)	Membranes used ^a	Productivity ($\text{mmol N \$}^{-1} \text{ membrane h}^{-1}$) ^b	Capital-cost-based productivity ($\text{mmol N \$}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$) ^c
Average	2017.2		10.9	2.3
Flow-electrode capacitive deionization				
19	107.7	1 CEM 1 AEM	0.9	0.2
	81.3		0.7	0.1
	64.9		0.5	0.1
20	39.6	1 CEM 1 AEM	0.3	0.07
	787.8		6.6	1.4
21	38.2	1 CEM, 1 AEM	0.3	0.07
22	66.9	1 CEM, 1 AEM	0.6	0.1
23	190.7	1 CEM 1 AEM	1.6	0.3
	279.0		2.3	0.5
Average	184.0		1.5	0.3
Proton-coupled electron transfer				
24	88.3	2 CEMs	0.7	0.2
	100.7		0.8	0.2
	115.1		1.0	0.2
Average	101.3		0.8	0.2
Prussian blue analogues (electrode)				
25	73.6	1 AEM	1.2	0.3
26	128.1	1 AEM	2.1	0.4
27	128.6	1 AEM	2.1	0.5
	180		3.0	0.6
	205.9		3.4	0.7
28	800	1 AEM	13.3	2.8

References	Productivity ($\text{mmol N m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$)	Membranes used ^a	Productivity ($\text{mmol N \$}^{-1} \text{ membrane h}^{-1}$) ^b	Capital-cost-based productivity ($\text{mmol N \$}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$) ^c
29	176.3	1 AEM	2.9	0.6
	529.9		8.8	1.9
	660.7		11.0	2.3
	476.7		7.9	1.7
Average	336.0		5.6	1.2
Prussian blue analogues (membrane)				
30	39.7	1 CEM	0.7	0.1
	61.1		1.0	0.2
Average	50.4		0.8	0.2

^aFor multiple cell-pair configurations, the repeating unit was considered.

^bThe productivity ($\text{mmol N \$}^{-1} \text{ membrane h}^{-1}$) was calculated from the productivity ($\text{mmol N m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$) using the midpoint price of IEMs,⁵³ which was $60 \text{ \$ m}^{-2}$ for a cation exchange membrane or an anion exchange membrane, and $120 \text{ \$ m}^{-2}$ for a bipolar membrane as well as the number of membranes used in the repeating unit.

^cThe midpoint contribution of ion exchange membrane (IEM) materials (21%) to the capital cost in representative IEM processes (desalination, resource recovery, and energy storage and chemical production) was used to convert the productivity ($\text{mmol N \$}^{-1} \text{ membrane h}^{-1}$) to capital-cost-based productivity ($\text{mmol N \$}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$).⁵⁴

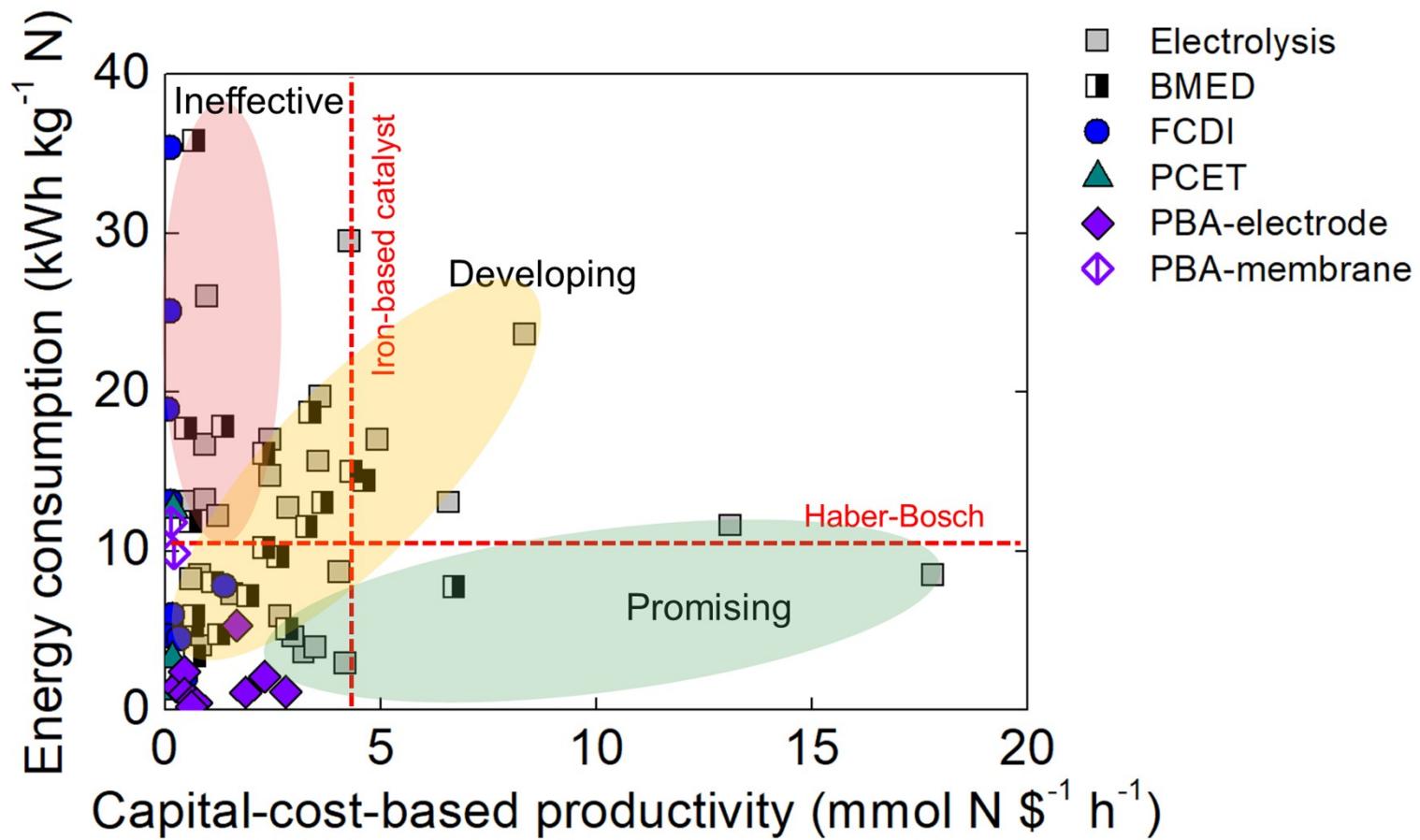


Figure S1. Energy-productivity plot created using the literature data (energy consumption, $\text{kWh kg}^{-1} \text{N}$). Two dashed lines indicate the benchmarking energy consumption against the Haber-Bosch process⁵⁵ and the average ammonia synthesis rate available from iron-based catalysts (Refs. 31–50). BMED: bipolar membrane electrodialysis; FCDI: flow-electrode capacitive deionization; PCET: proton-coupled electron transfer; PBA: Prussian blue analogue.

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