

Supporting Information for

“Regulation of Transition Metal Atoms Supported on Defective h-BN by Adjacent Monovacancies for Electrochemical CO₂ Reduction: Mechanism and d-band Spin-Polarization Effect”

*Wenjie Wang, *^a Meiyun Zhang^a, Jinhao Zhou^a, Bingfeng Fan^a*

^aGuangdong-HongKong-Macao Joint Laboratory for Intelligent Micro-Nano Optoelectronic Technology, School of Physics and Optoelectronic Engineering, Foshan University, Foshan 528225, China

*Email: wwj20220265@fosu.edu.cn

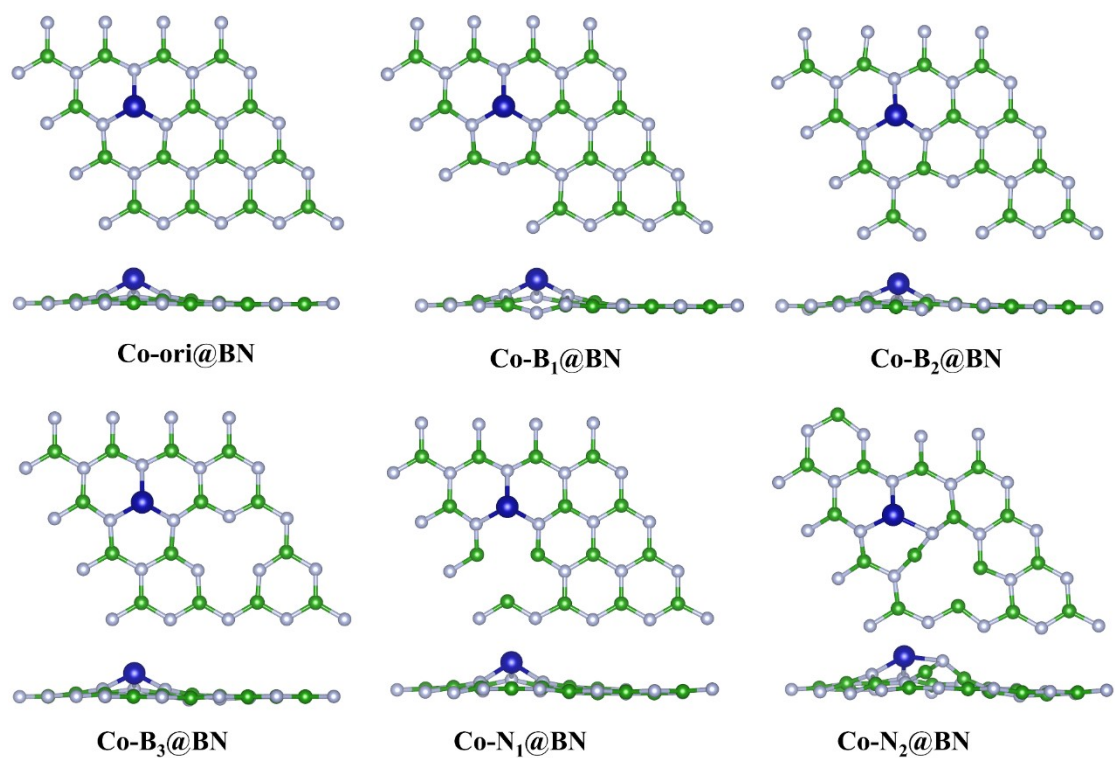


Figure S1. Top and side views of on various Co-vac@BN. Boron, nitrogen, and Co atoms are denoted by green, light blue, and dark blue balls, respectively.

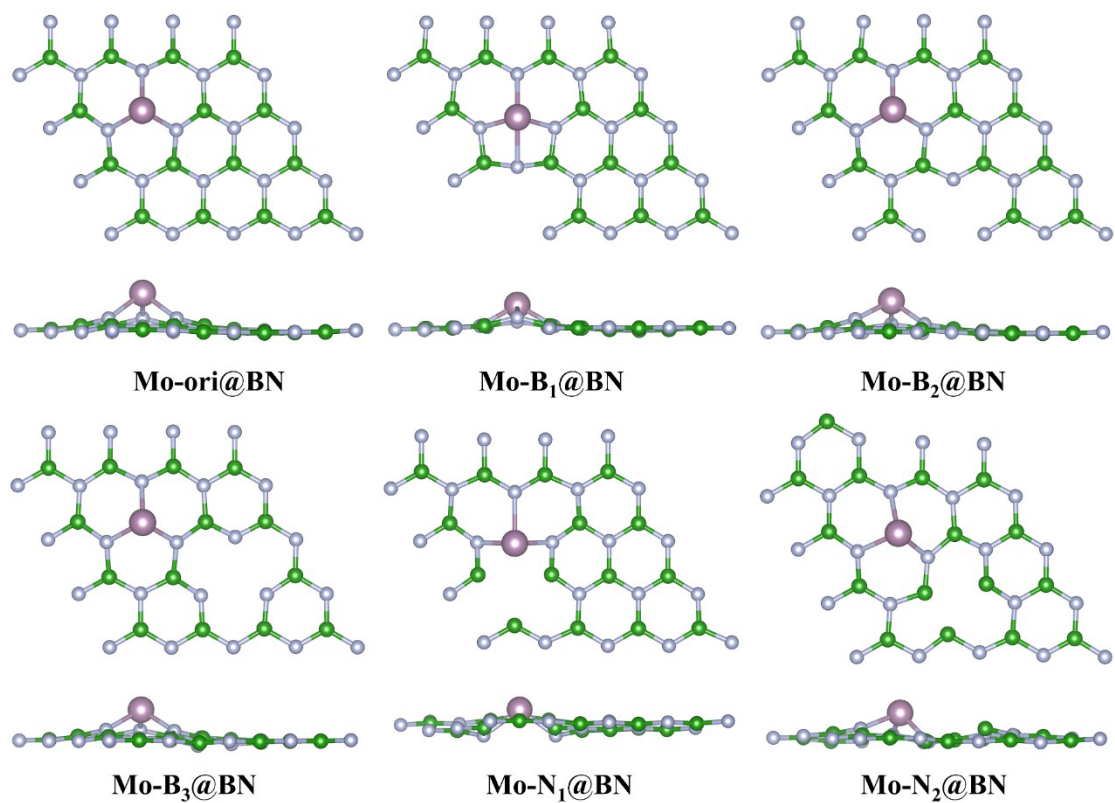


Figure S2. Top and side views of on various Mo-vac@BN. Boron, nitrogen, and Mo atoms are denoted by green, light blue, and light purple balls, respectively.

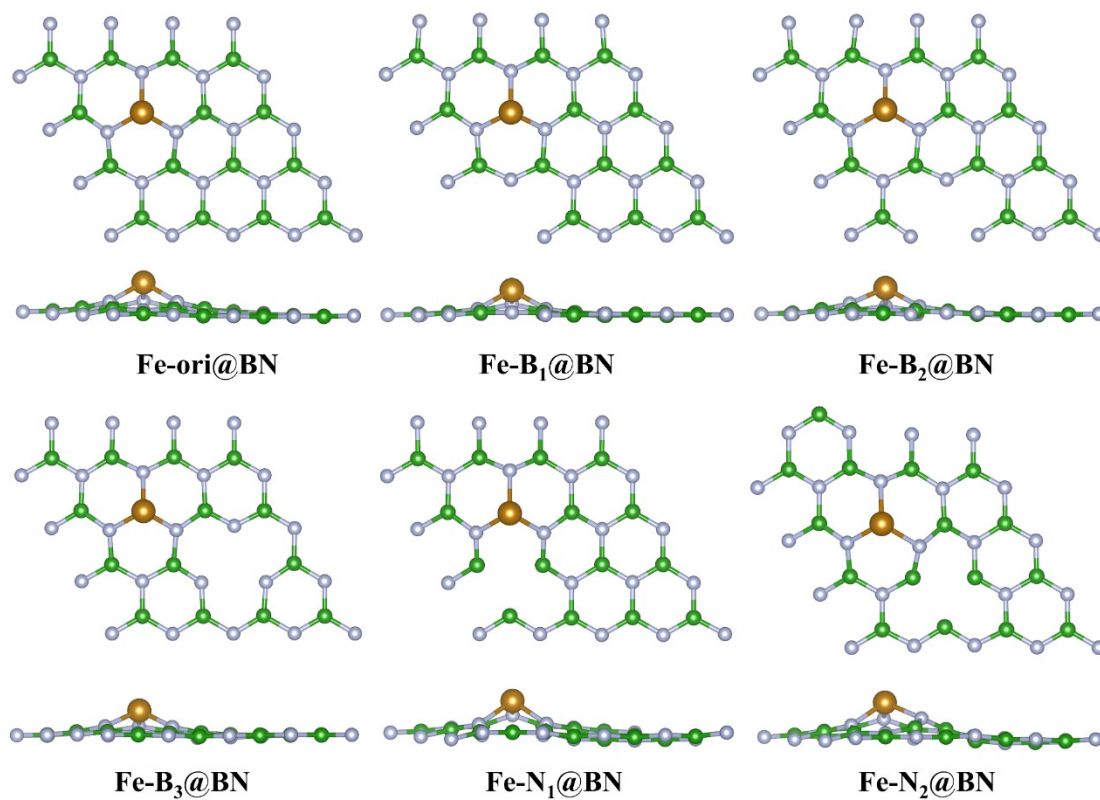


Figure S3. Top and side views of on various Fe-vac@BN. Boron, nitrogen, and Fe atoms are denoted by green, light blue, and light brown balls, respectively.

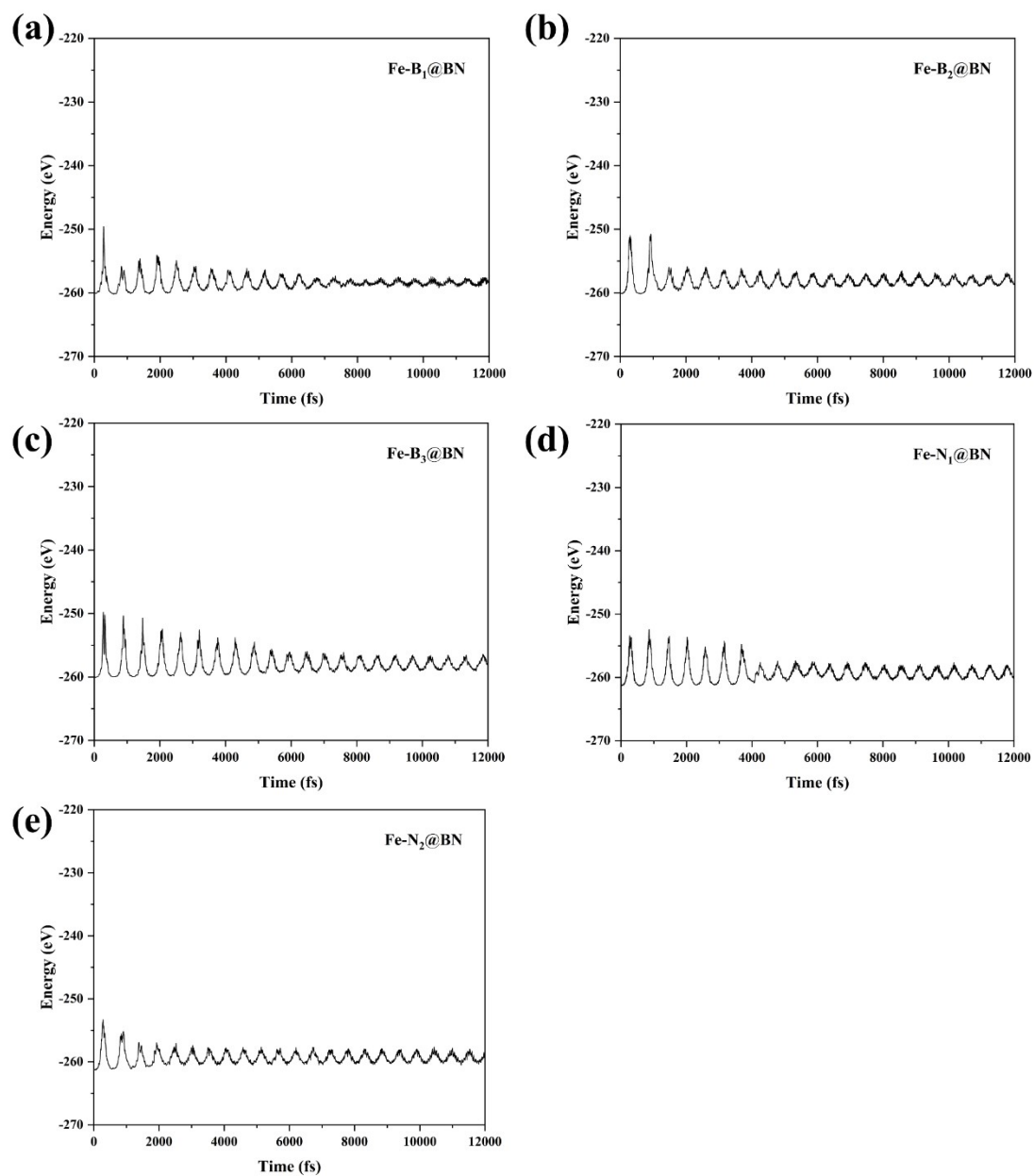


Figure S4. Energies of various Fe-vac@BN during the time progression of AIMD simulations at 500 K.

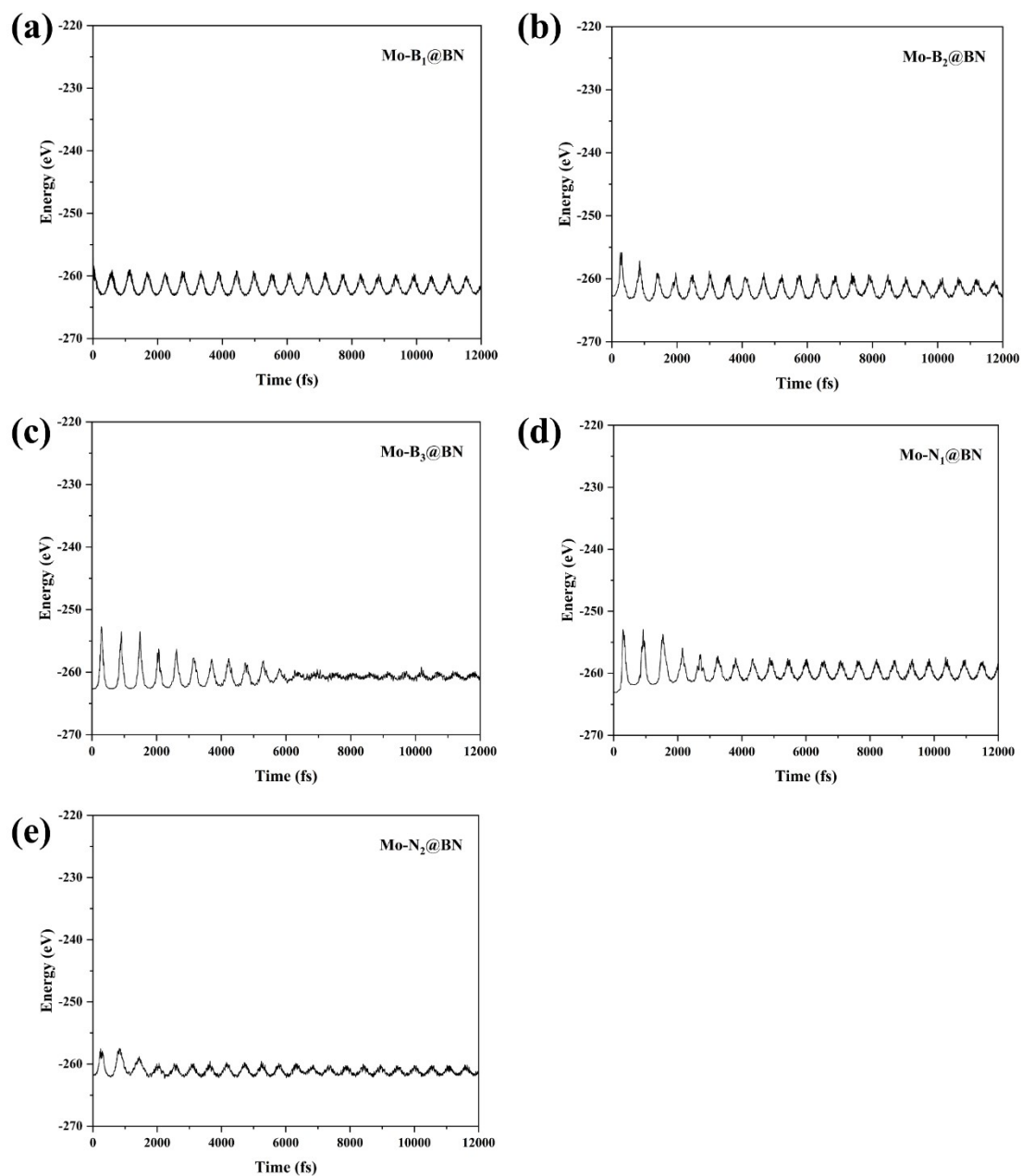


Figure S5. Energies of various Mo-vac@BN during the time progression of AIMD simulations at 500 K.

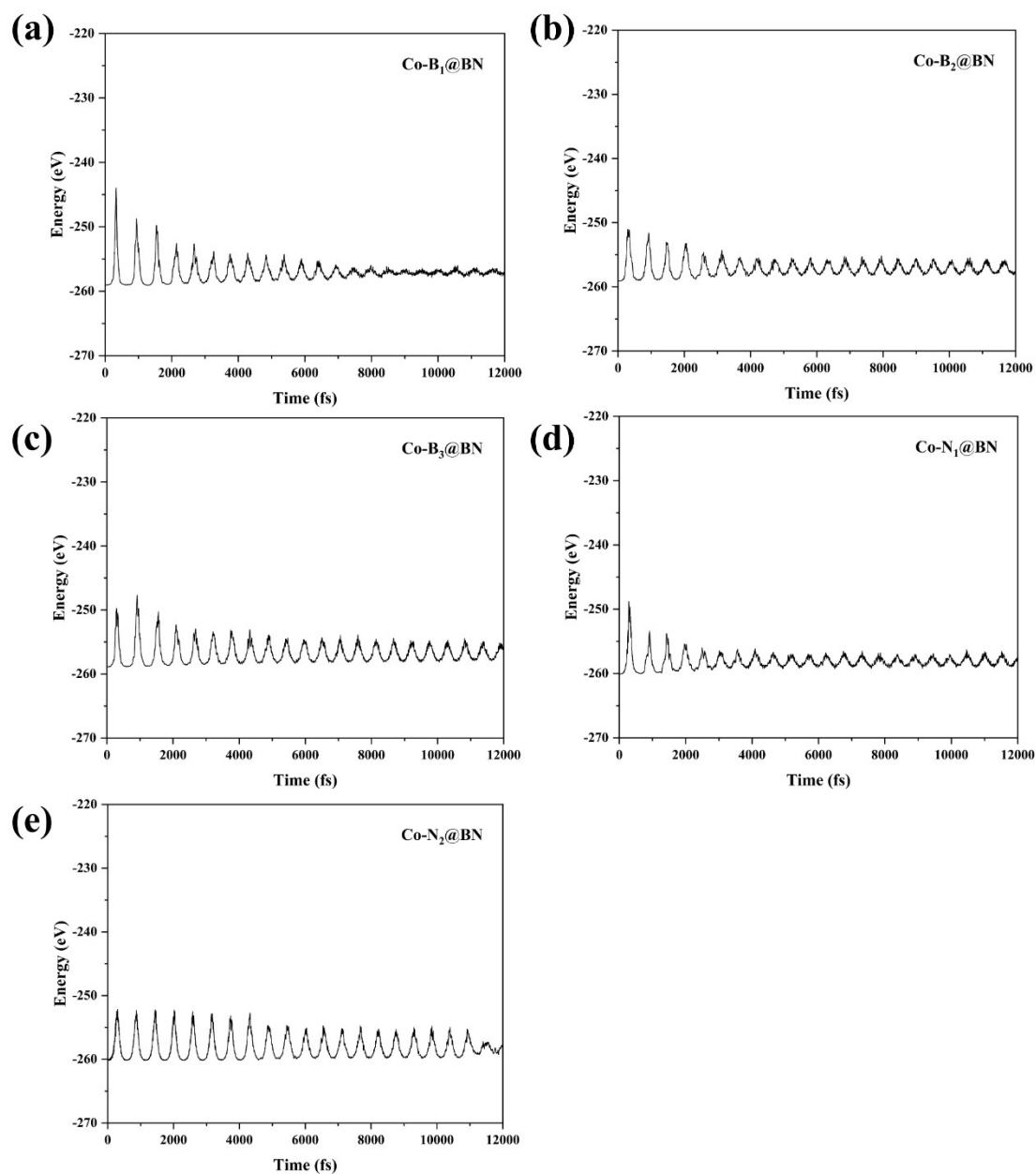


Figure S6. Energies of various Co-vac@BN during the time progression of AIMD simulations at 500 K.

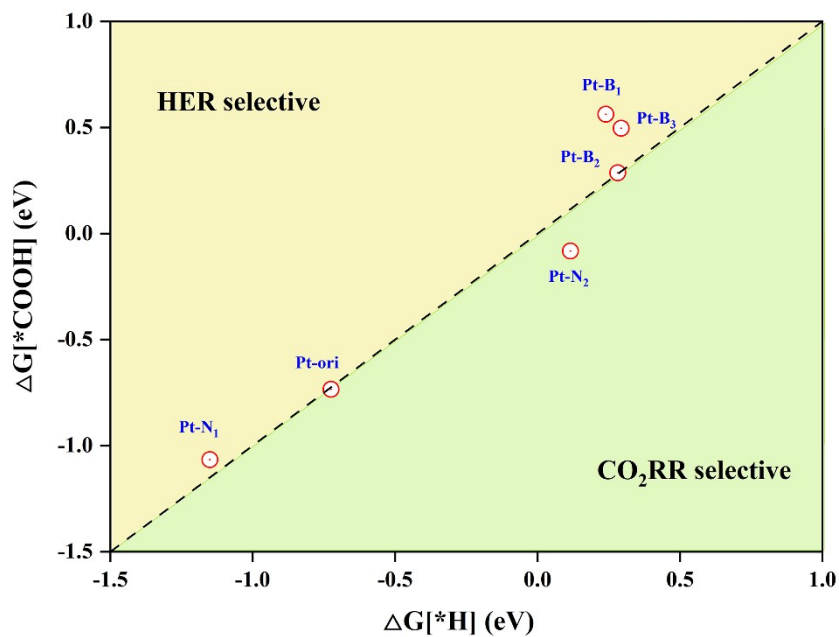


Figure S7. Gibbs free energies of the initial protonation steps of HER and CO₂RR on various Pt-vac@BN.

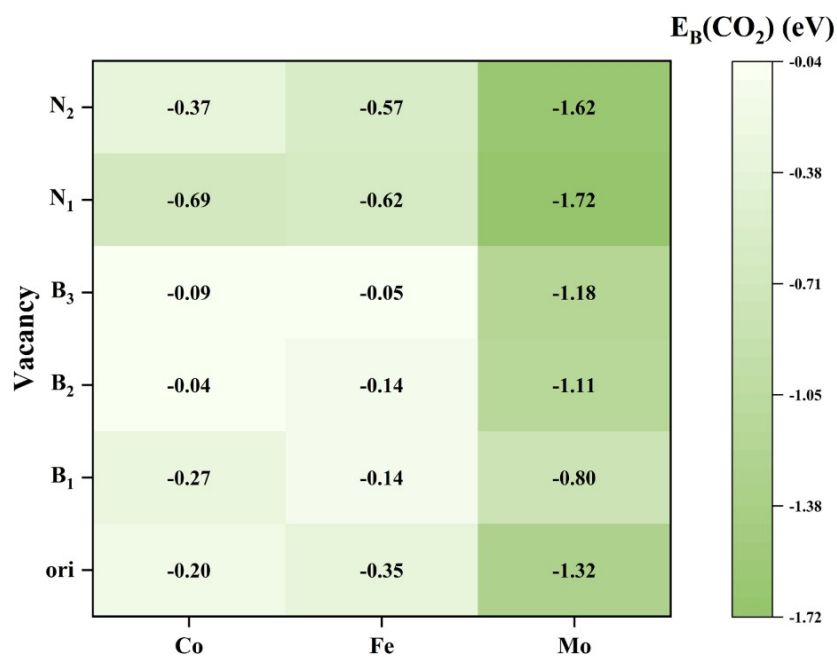


Figure S8. Calculated $E_B(\text{CO}_2)$ of various M-vac@BN.

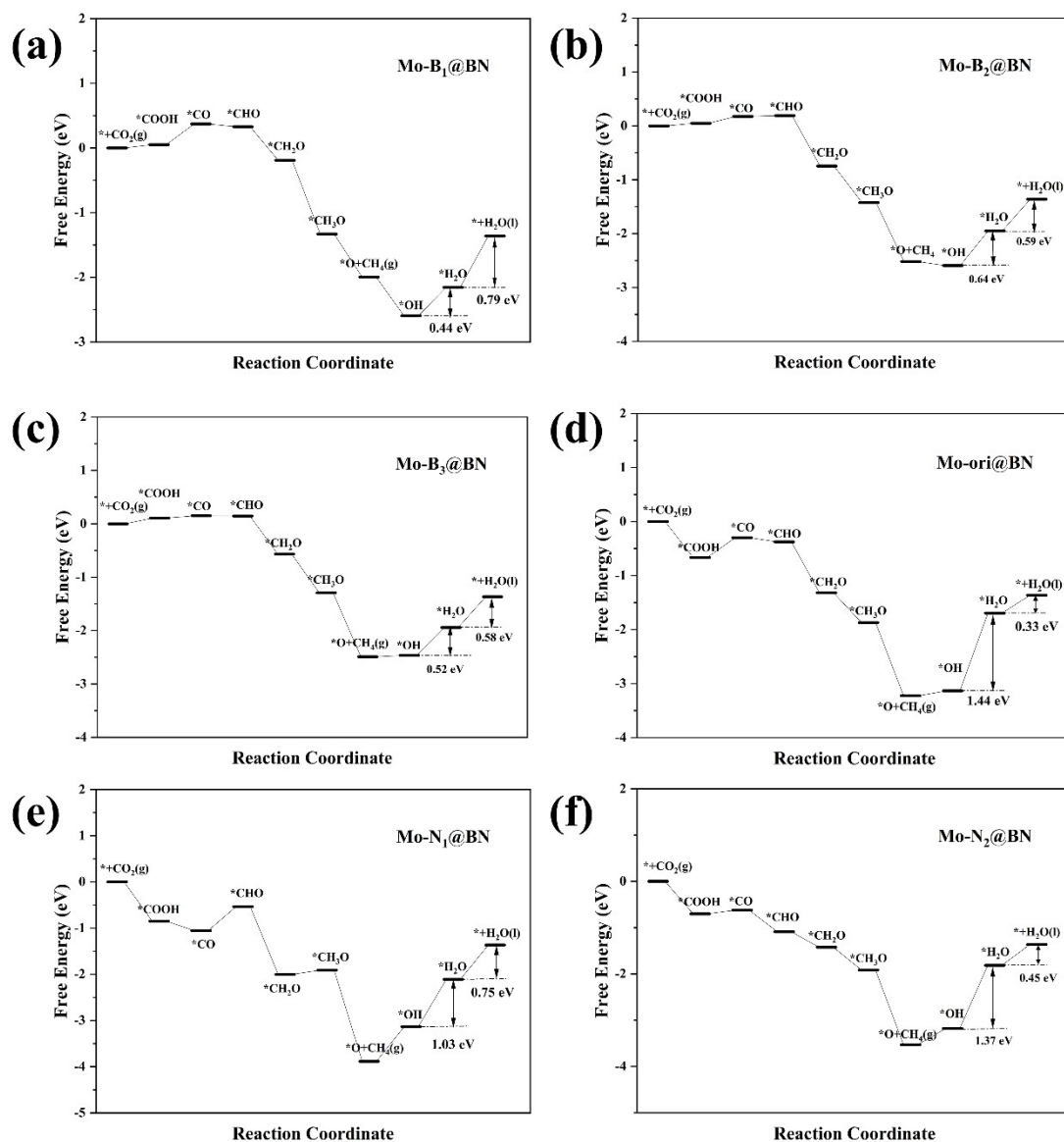


Figure S9. Free-energy profiles for the CO₂RR on various Mo-vac@BN at 0 V (vs. RHE).

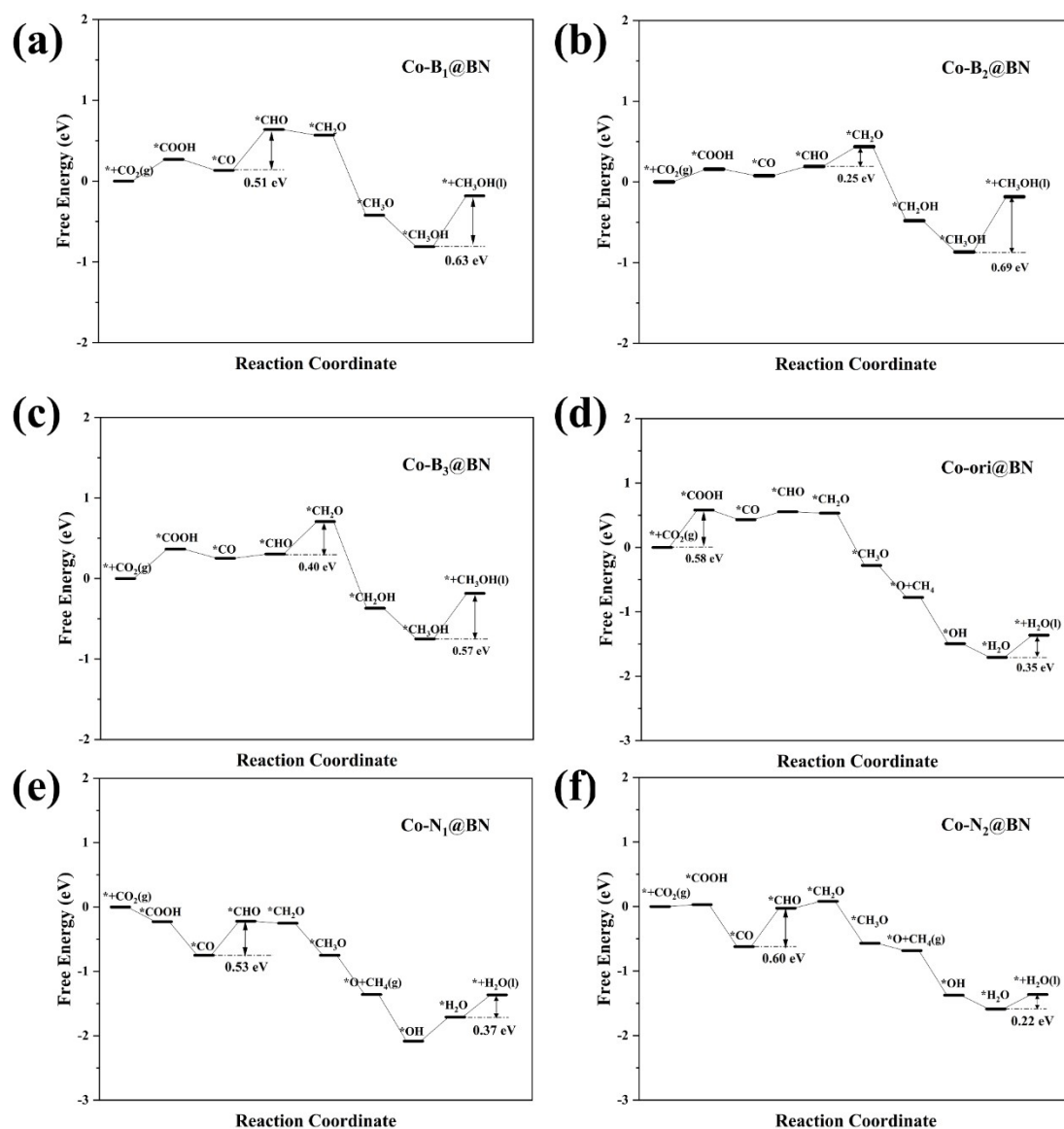


Figure S10. Free-energy profiles for the CO₂RR on various Co-vac@BN at 0 V (vs. RHE).

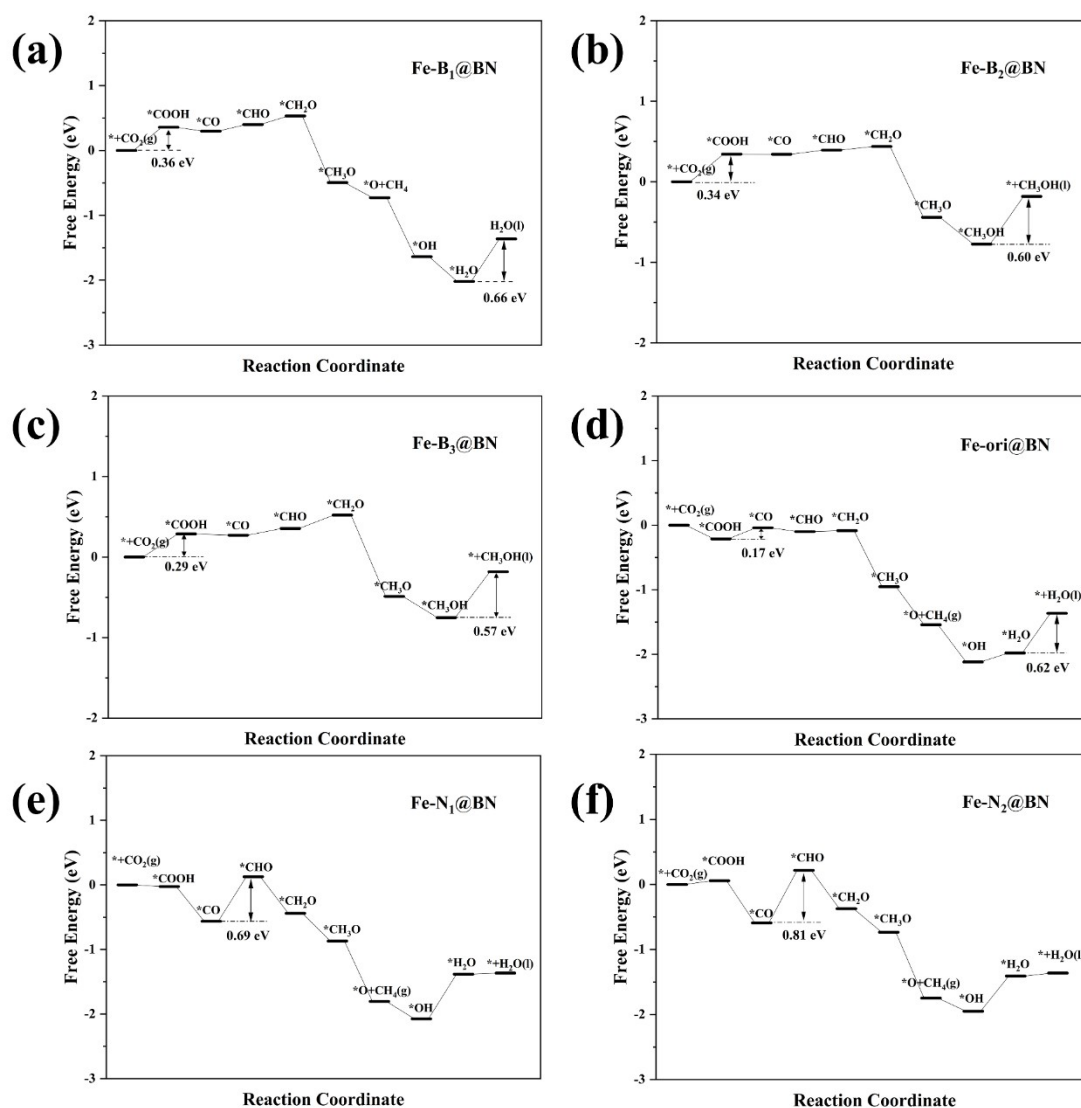


Figure S11. Free-energy profiles for the CO₂RR on various Fe-vac@BN at 0 V (vs. RHE).

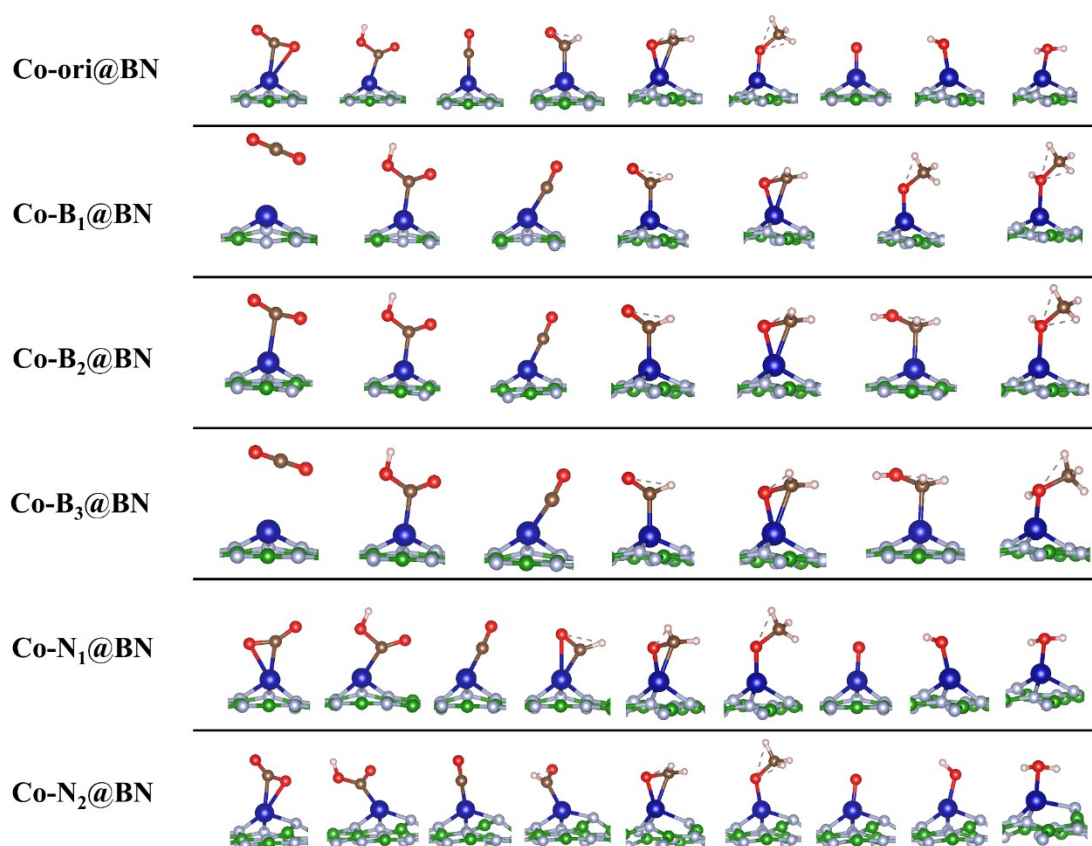


Figure S12. The intermediate structures along the reaction pathways of CO₂RR on various Co-vac@BN. Boron, nitrogen, carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, and Co atoms are denoted by green, light blue, dark brown, red, white, and blue balls, respectively.

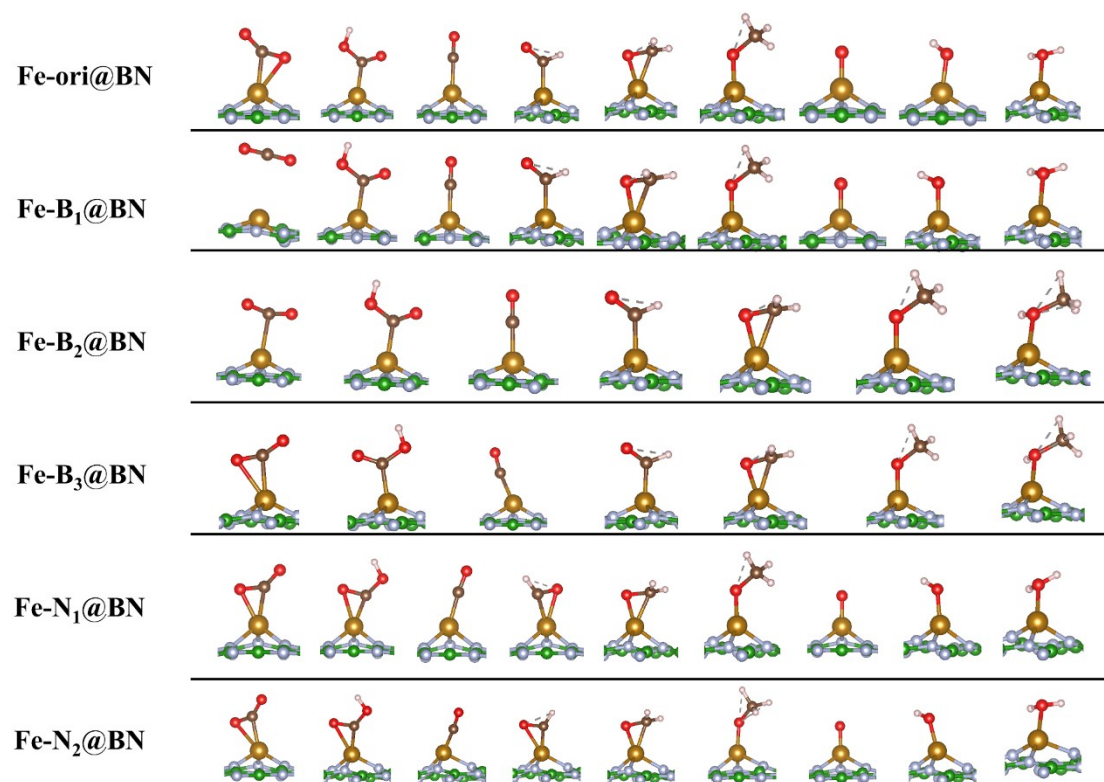


Figure S13. The intermediate structures along the reaction pathways of CO₂RR on various Fe-vac@BN. Boron, nitrogen, carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, and Fe atoms are denoted by green, light blue, dark brown, red, white, and brown balls, respectively.

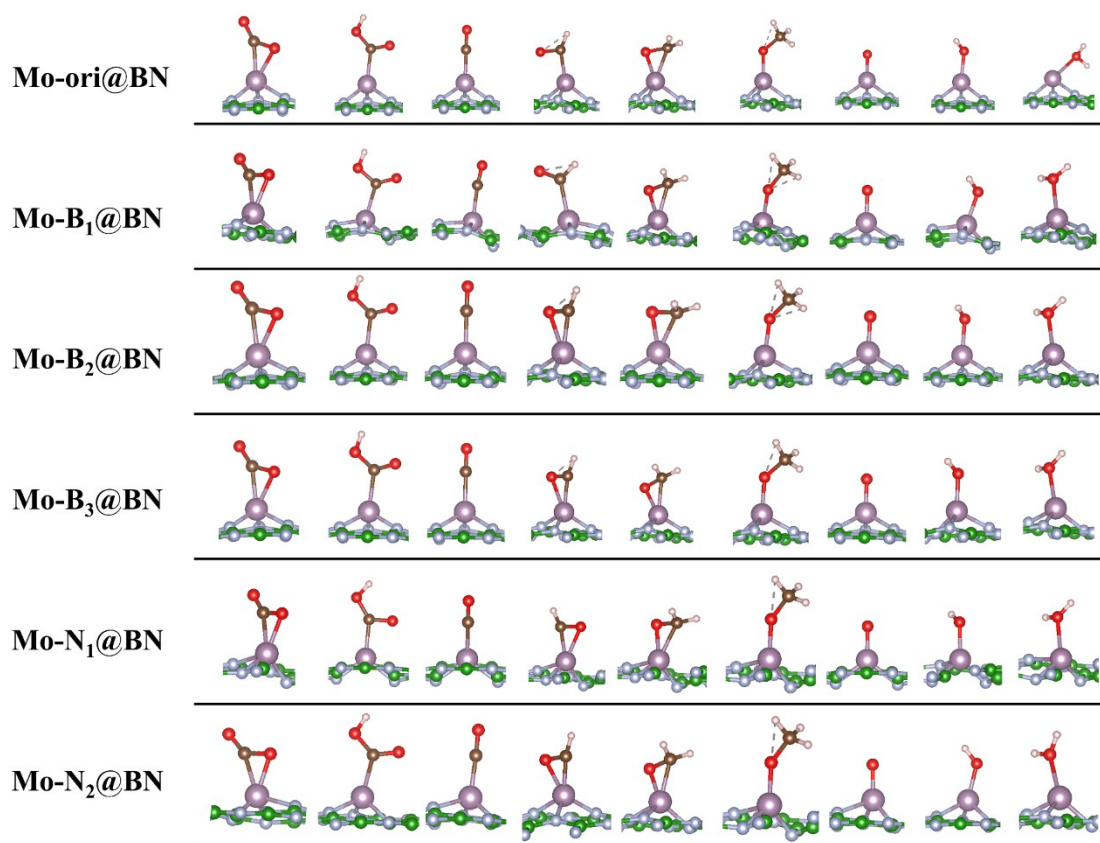


Figure S14. The intermediate structures along the reaction pathways of CO₂RR on various Mo-vac@BN. Boron, nitrogen, carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, and Mo atoms are denoted by green, light blue, dark brown, red, white, and light purple balls, respectively.

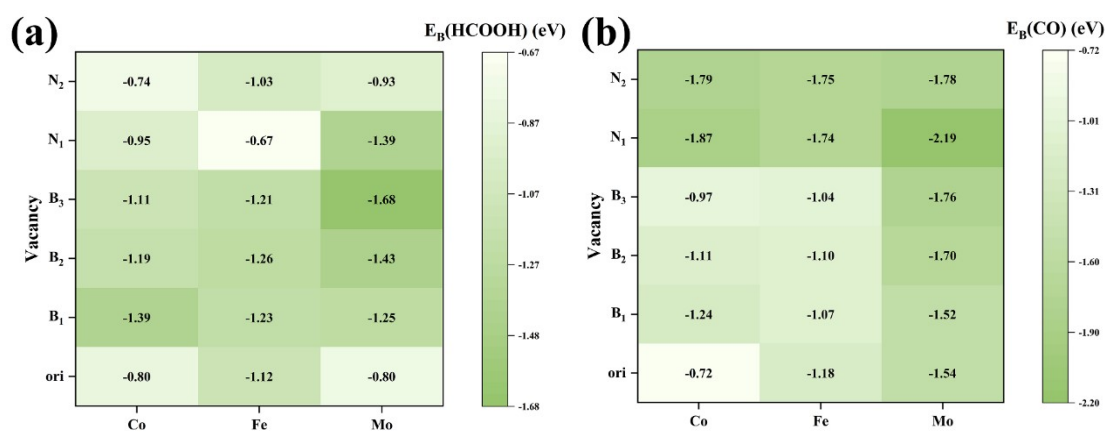


Figure S15. (a) Calculated $E_B(\text{HCOOH})$ of various M-vac@BN. (b) Calculated $E_B(\text{CO})$ of various M-vac@BN.

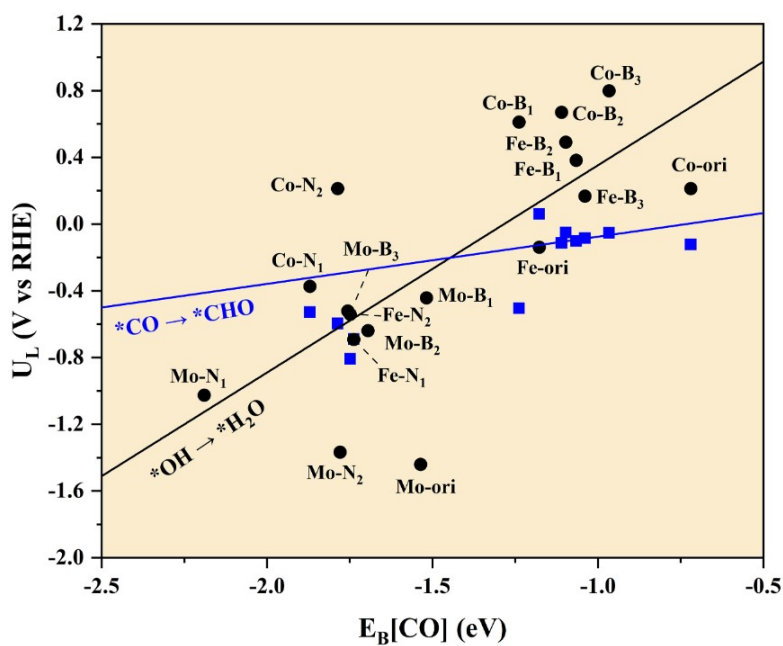


Figure S16. Correlation between the U_L for ($*CO \rightarrow *CHO$) and ($*OH \rightarrow *H_2O$) and the $E_B(CO)$ of various M-vac@BN.

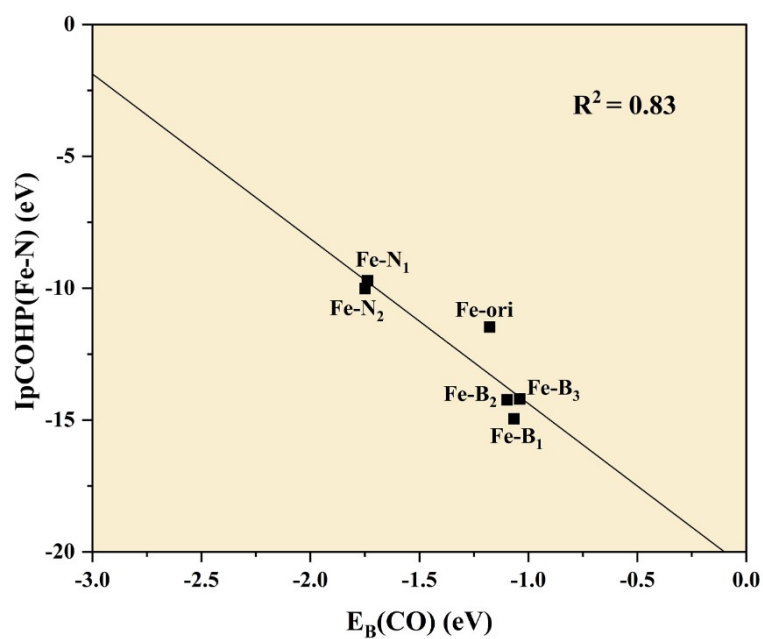


Figure S17. Correlation between the $IpCOHP(Fe-N)$ and the $E_B(CO)$ of Fe-vac@BN.

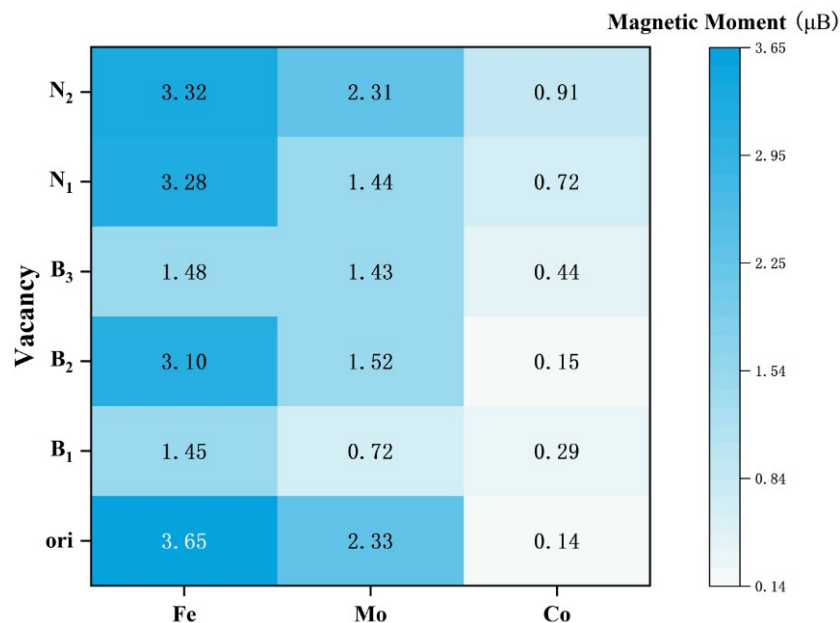


Figure S18. Calculated magnetic moments of the metal atoms in various M-vac@BN.

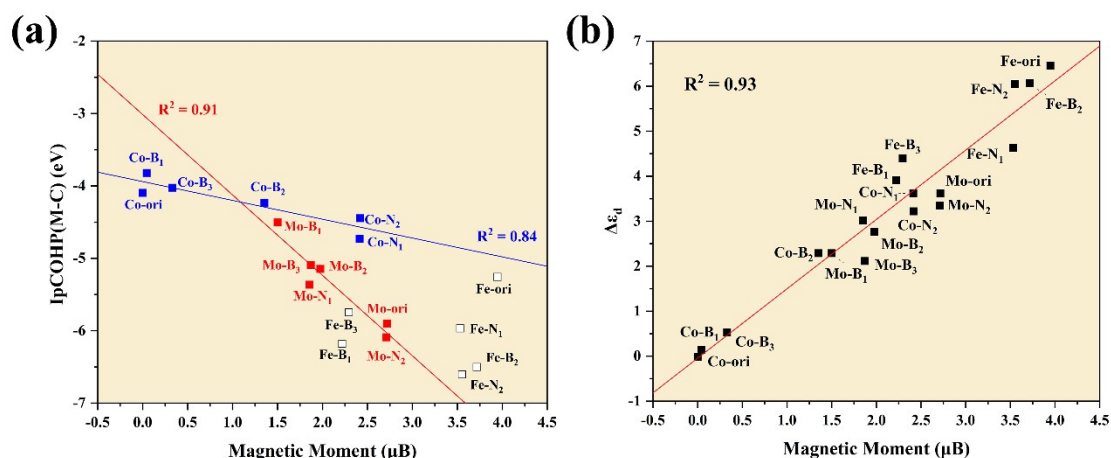


Figure S19. (a) Correlation between the $I_p\text{COHP(M-C)}$ and calculated magnetic moments of the metal atoms M in various M-vac@BN after considering DFT+U. (b) Correlation between the calculated magnetic moments and $\Delta\epsilon_d$ of metal atoms M in various M-vac@BN after considering DFT+U.

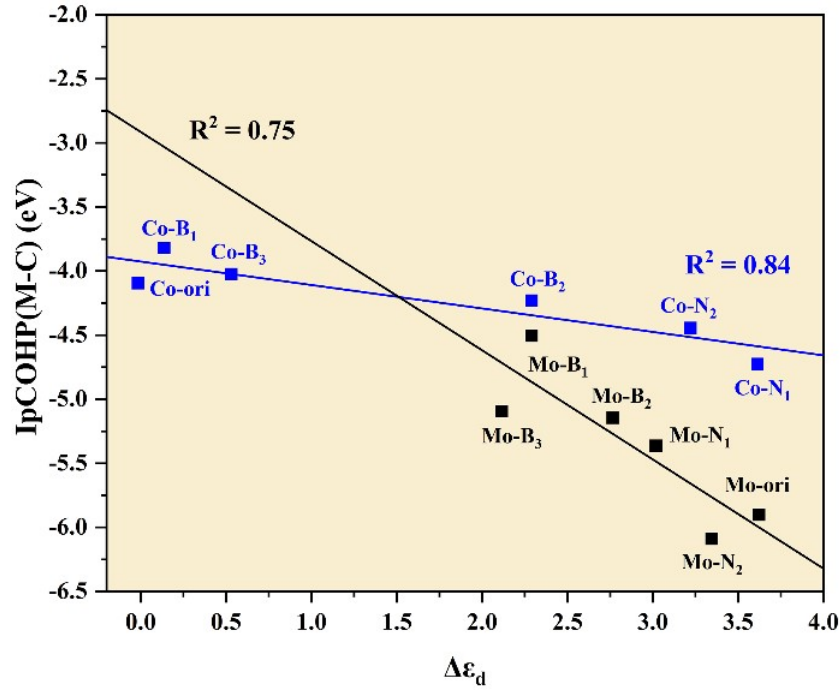


Figure S20. Correlation between IpCOHP(M-C) and $\Delta\epsilon_d$ for M-vac@BN (M= Co, Mo) after considering DFT+U.

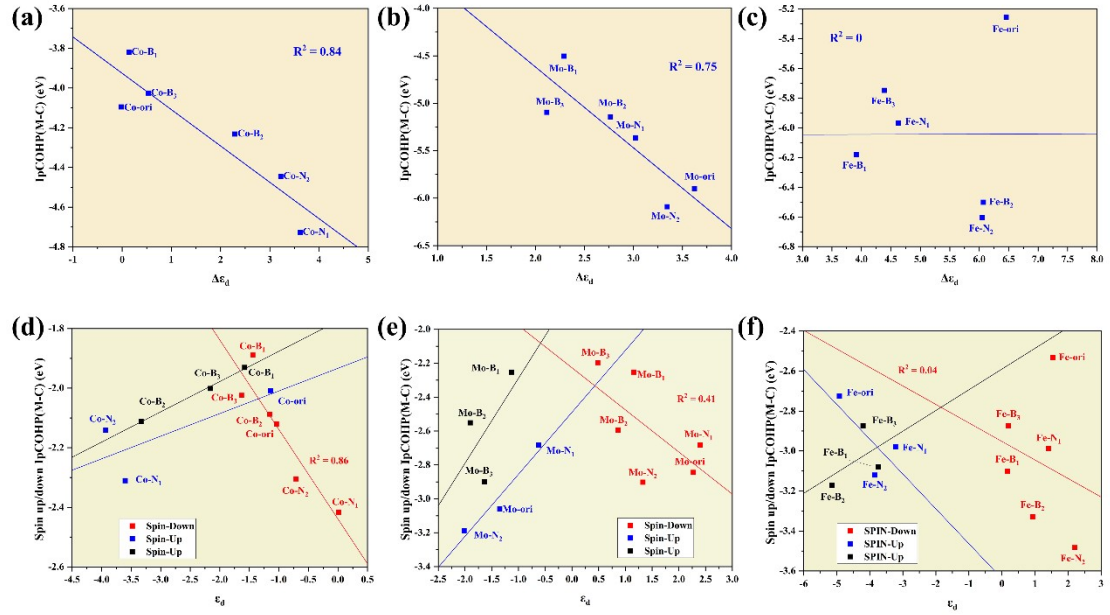


Figure S21. Correlation between IpCOHP(M-C) and $\Delta\epsilon_d$ for (a) Co-vac@BN, (b) Mo-vac@BN, and (c) Fe-vac@BN, respectively, after considering DFT+U; Correlation between spin up/down IpCOHP(M-C) and spin up/down ϵ_d for (d) Co-vac@BN, (e) Mo-vac@BN, and (f) Fe-vac@BN, respectively, after considering DFT+U.

Table S1. Calculated limiting potential (U_L), overpotential (η), final products, and PDS of CO₂RR on various M-vac@BN.

Catalysts	Products	PDS	U_L (V vs. RHE)	η (V)
Co-ori@BN	CH ₄	*+CO ₂ → *COOH	-0.58	0.75
Co-B ₁ @BN	CH ₃ OH	*CO → *CHO	-0.51	0.54
Co-B ₂ @BN	CH ₃ OH	*CHO → *CH ₂ O	-0.25	0.28
Co-B ₃ @BN	CH ₃ OH	*CHO → *CH ₂ O	-0.40	0.43
Co-N ₁ @BN	CH ₄	*CO → *CHO	-0.53	0.70
Co-N ₂ @BN	CH ₄	*CO → *CHO	-0.60	0.77
Fe-ori@BN	CH ₄	*COOH → *CO	-0.17	0.34
Fe-B ₁ @BN	CH ₄	*+CO ₂ → *COOH	-0.36	0.53
Fe-B ₂ @BN	CH ₃ OH	*+CO ₂ → *COOH	-0.34	0.37
Fe-B ₃ @BN	CH ₃ OH	*+CO ₂ → *COOH	-0.29	0.32
Fe-N ₁ @BN	CH ₄	*CO → *CHO	-0.69	0.86
Fe-N ₂ @BN	CH ₄	*CO → *CHO	-0.81	0.98
Mo-ori@BN	CH ₄	*OH → *H ₂ O	-1.44	1.61
Mo-B ₁ @BN	CH ₄	*OH → *H ₂ O	-0.44	0.61
Mo-B ₂ @BN	CH ₄	*OH → *H ₂ O	-0.64	0.81
Mo-B ₃ @BN	CH ₄	*OH → *H ₂ O	-0.52	0.69
Mo-N ₁ @BN	CH ₄	*OH → *H ₂ O	-1.03	1.20
Mo-N ₂ @BN	CH ₄	*OH → *H ₂ O	-1.37	1.54

Table S2. Limiting potential (U_L) and final products of CO₂RR on various catalysts reported in related researches.

Catalysts	U_L (V vs. RHE)	Products
Fe/defective BN ¹	-0.52	CH ₄

Co/defective BN ¹	-0.68	CH ₄
Pt/defective BN ¹	-0.60	CH ₄
Mo@BN ²	-0.45	CH ₄
Co-DVBN ³	-0.58	CH ₃ OH
Fe-DVBN ³	-1.90	CH ₄
Mo-DVBN ³	-2.02	CH ₄
Ni-DVBN ³	-0.48	CH ₃ OH
Pd-DVBN ³	-0.56	CH ₃ OH
Fe ₂ @BN ⁴	-0.47	CH ₄
Co ₂ @BN ⁴	-0.75	CH ₄
Ni ₂ @BN ⁴	-0.39	CH ₄
CuMn@BN ⁴	-0.61	CH ₄

Table S3. Calculated corrections of Gibbs free energy for the adsorbates on various M-vac@BN. All values are given in eV.

Adsorbate (Fe-ori@BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.20	-0.01	0.01
*COOH	0.61	-0.24	0.11
*CO	0.19	-0.18	0.08
*HCOOH	0.93	-0.23	0.11
*CHO	0.46	-0.12	0.06

*COH	0.49	-0.17	0.08
*CHOH	0.78	-0.19	0.09
*CH ₂ O	0.77	-0.17	0.08
*CH ₂ OH	1.09	-0.21	0.10
*CH ₃ O	1.09	-0.18	0.08
*CH ₃ OH	1.41	-0.27	0.12
*O	0.07	-0.07	0.04
*OH	0.35	-0.11	0.05
*H ₂ O	0.65	-0.17	0.08
Adsorbate (Fe-B ₁ @BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.19	-0.01	0.01
*COOH	0.61	-0.25	0.11
*CO	0.20	-0.17	0.07
*HCOOH	0.92	-0.23	0.11
*COH	0.48	-0.16	0.08
*CHO	0.46	-0.19	0.09
*CHOH	0.80	-0.17	0.08
*CH ₂ O	0.79	-0.15	0.08
*CH ₂ OH	1.09	-0.21	0.10
*CH ₃ O	1.09	-0.18	0.08
*CH ₃ OH	1.41	-0.27	0.12
*O	0.08	-0.06	0.03
*OH	0.33	-0.13	0.06
*H ₂ O	0.65	-0.19	0.09
Adsorbate (Fe-B ₂ @BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.19	-0.02	0.01
*COOH	0.61	-0.25	0.11
*CO	0.20	-0.16	0.07
*HCOOH	0.93	-0.23	0.11

*COH	0.48	-0.17	0.08
*CHO	0.45	-0.19	0.09
*CHOH	0.77	-0.21	0.10
*CH ₂ O	0.79	-0.17	0.08
*CH ₂ OH	1.09	-0.22	0.10
*CH ₃ O	1.09	-0.18	0.08
*CH ₃ OH	1.42	-0.26	0.12
*O	0.08	-0.06	0.03
*OH	0.34	-0.11	0.06
*H ₂ O	0.65	-0.18	0.08
Adsorbate (Fe-B ₃ @BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.20	-0.01	0.01
*COOH	0.61	-0.25	0.11
*HCOOH	0.92	-0.23	0.11
*CO	0.20	-0.17	0.07
*COH	0.49	-0.17	0.08
*CHO	0.46	-0.18	0.09
*CHOH	0.79	-0.13	0.07
*CH ₂ O	0.77	-0.18	0.09
*CH ₂ OH	1.09	-0.20	0.10
*CH ₃ O	1.09	-0.18	0.08
*CH ₃ OH	1.42	-0.26	0.12
*O	0.06	-0.10	0.04
*OH	0.34	-0.13	0.06
*H ₂ O	0.65	-0.18	0.08
Adsorbate (Fe-N ₁ @BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.16	-0.03	0.02
*COOH	0.61	-0.24	0.11
*CO	0.20	-0.17	0.07

*HCOOH	0.93	-0.24	0.11
*COH	0.46	-0.20	0.09
*CHO	0.44	-0.19	0.09
*CHOH	0.77	-0.14	0.07
*CH ₂ O	0.78	-0.17	0.08
*CH ₂ OH	1.08	-0.20	0.10
*CH ₃ O	1.08	-0.24	0.11
*CH ₃ OH	1.40	-0.24	0.11
*O	0.08	-0.06	0.03
*OH	0.33	-0.13	0.06
*H ₂ O	0.65	-0.15	0.08
Adsorbate (Fe-N ₂ @BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.17	-0.02	0.01
*COOH	0.60	-0.25	0.11
*CO	0.21	-0.15	0.07
*HCOOH	0.92	-0.26	0.12
*COH	0.46	-0.19	0.09
*CHO	0.46	-0.16	0.08
*CHOH	0.78	-0.19	0.09
*CH ₂ O	0.77	-0.17	0.08
*CH ₂ OH	1.06	-0.24	0.11
*CH ₃ O	1.07	-0.20	0.09
*CH ₃ OH	1.40	-0.25	0.11
*O	0.08	-0.06	0.03
*OH	0.34	-0.12	0.06
*H ₂ O	0.66	-0.15	0.08
Adsorbate (Co-ori@BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.19	-0.01	0.01
*COOH	0.60	-0.19	0.09

*CO	0.19	-0.17	0.08
*HCOOH	0.93	-0.24	0.11
*COH	0.47	-0.18	0.09
*CHO	0.44	-0.14	0.07
*CHOH	0.81	-0.16	0.08
*CH ₂ O	0.77	-0.18	0.09
*CH ₂ OH	1.08	-0.23	0.11
*CH ₃ O	1.08	-0.14	0.06
*CH ₃ OH	1.41	-0.19	0.10
*O	0.08	-0.06	0.03
*OH	0.35	-0.11	0.06
*H ₂ O	0.65	-0.15	0.08

Adsorbate (Co-B ₁ @BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.18	-0.02	0.01
*COOH	0.61	-0.26	0.12
*CO	0.21	-0.16	0.07
*HCOOH	0.93	-0.23	0.11
*COH	0.48	-0.17	0.08
*CHO	0.46	-0.19	0.09
*CHOH	0.78	-0.17	0.08
*CH ₂ O	0.77	-0.19	0.09
*CH ₂ OH	1.10	-0.21	0.10
*CH ₃ O	1.08	-0.18	0.08
*CH ₃ OH	1.40	-0.23	0.11
*O	0.08	-0.06	0.03
*OH	0.35	-0.10	0.05
*H ₂ O	0.66	-0.16	0.08

Adsorbate (Co-B ₂ @BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.18	-0.02	0.01

*COOH	0.61	-0.25	0.11
*HCOOH	0.93	-0.23	0.11
*CO	0.21	-0.15	0.07
*COH	0.47	-0.18	0.08
*CHO	0.45	-0.14	0.07
*CHOH	0.77	-0.15	0.07
*CH ₂ O	0.77	-0.19	0.09
*CH ₂ OH	1.10	-0.21	0.10
*CH ₃ O	1.09	-0.18	0.08
*CH ₃ OH	1.39	-0.18	0.09
*O	0.08	-0.06	0.03
*OH	0.34	-0.12	0.06
*H ₂ O	0.66	-0.17	0.08
*CH	0.32	-0.09	0.05
*CH ₂	0.60	-0.12	0.07

Adsorbate (Co-B ₃ @BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.19	-0.02	0.01
*COOH	0.61	-0.19	0.09
*CO	0.21	-0.14	0.07
*HCOOH	0.92	-0.22	0.11
*COH	0.46	-0.13	0.06
*CHO	0.46	-0.19	0.09
*CHOH	0.80	-0.16	0.08
*CH ₂ O	0.77	-0.19	0.09
*CH ₂ OH	1.10	-0.21	0.10
*CH ₃ O	1.08	-0.18	0.08
*CH ₃ OH	1.42	-0.26	0.12
*O	0.08	-0.06	0.03
*OH	0.34	-0.11	0.06

*H ₂ O	0.66	-0.16	0.08
*CH	0.31	-0.09	0.05
*CH ₂	0.59	-0.08	0.05
Adsorbate (Co-N ₁ @BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.21	-0.01	0.01
*COOH	0.60	-0.24	0.11
*CO	0.22	-0.15	0.06
*HCOOH	0.93	-0.23	0.11
*COH	0.48	-0.17	0.08
*CHO	0.47	-0.17	0.08
*CHOH	0.80	-0.16	0.08
*CH ₂ O	0.77	-0.17	0.08
*CH ₂ OH	1.07	-0.17	0.08
*CH ₃ O	1.08	-0.25	0.11
*CH ₃ OH	1.40	-0.24	0.11
*O	0.06	-0.09	0.04
*OH	0.35	-0.11	0.05
*H ₂ O	0.66	-0.14	0.07
Adsorbate (Co-N ₂ @BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.22	-0.01	0.01
*COOH	0.62	-0.23	0.11
*CO	0.22	-0.15	0.07
*HCOOH	0.93	-0.23	0.11
*COH	0.47	-0.18	0.08
*CHO	0.46	-0.18	0.08
*CHOH	0.79	-0.14	0.07
*CH ₂ O	0.77	-0.18	0.09
*CH ₂ OH	1.08	-0.23	0.10
*CH ₃ O	1.08	-0.19	0.09

*CH ₃ OH	1.40	-0.25	0.11
*O	0.07	-0.06	0.03
*OH	0.35	-0.05	0.03
*H ₂ O	0.66	-0.14	0.08
Adsorbate (Mo-ori@BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.17	-0.02	0.01
*COOH	0.59	-0.27	0.12
*CO	0.19	-0.16	0.07
*HCOOH	0.86	-0.26	0.12
*CO	0.19	-0.16	0.07
*COH	0.47	-0.18	0.09
*CHO	0.45	-0.18	0.08
*CHOH	0.77	-0.19	0.09
*CH ₂ O	0.78	-0.16	0.08
*CH ₂ OH	1.07	-0.20	0.10
*CH ₃ O	1.08	-0.21	0.09
*CH ₃ OH	1.39	-0.25	0.11
*O	0.07	-0.07	0.04
*OH	0.33	-0.13	0.06
*H ₂ O	0.65	-0.15	0.08
Adsorbate (Mo-B ₁ @BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.19	-0.01	0.01
*COOH	0.60	-0.26	0.12
*CO	0.19	-0.17	0.08
*HCOOH	0.91	-0.17	0.08
*COH	0.52	-0.12	0.06
*CHO	0.45	-0.20	0.09
*CHOH	0.78	-0.20	0.09
*CH ₂ O	0.79	-0.13	0.07

*CH ₂ OH	1.08	-0.23	0.10
*CH ₃ O	1.08	-0.21	0.09
*CH ₃ OH	1.41	-0.22	0.10
*O	0.08	-0.06	0.03
*OH	0.34	-0.11	0.06
*H ₂ O	0.65	-0.19	0.09
Adsorbate (Mo-B ₂ @BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.17	-0.02	0.01
*COOH	0.59	-0.27	0.12
*HCOOH	0.91	-0.26	0.12
*CO	0.19	-0.17	0.08
*COH	0.46	-0.19	0.09
*CHO	0.47	-0.14	0.07
*CHOH	0.78	-0.19	0.09
*CH ₂ O	0.79	-0.14	0.07
*CH ₂ OH	1.07	-0.17	0.08
*CH ₃ O	1.08	-0.21	0.09
*CH ₃ OH	1.40	-0.19	0.09
*O	0.08	-0.06	0.03
*OH	0.32	-0.09	0.05
*H ₂ O	0.65	-0.19	0.09
Adsorbate (Mo-B ₃ @BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.18	-0.01	0.01
*COOH	0.60	-0.27	0.12
*HCOOH	0.91	-0.23	0.11
*CO	0.19	-0.16	0.08
*COH	0.47	-0.18	0.09
*CHO	0.47	-0.14	0.07
*CHOH	0.78	-0.19	0.09

*CH ₂ O	0.79	-0.14	0.07
*CH ₂ OH	1.07	-0.22	0.10
*CH ₃ O	1.08	-0.22	0.09
*CH ₃ OH	1.40	-0.25	0.11
*O	0.07	-0.06	0.03
*OH	0.33	-0.12	0.06
*H ₂ O	0.65	-0.18	0.09
Adsorbate (Mo-N ₁ @BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.17	-0.03	0.02
*COOH	0.60	-0.25	0.11
*HCOOH	0.91	-0.25	0.12
*CO	0.20	-0.15	0.07
*COH	0.46	-0.20	0.09
*CHO	0.45	-0.15	0.08
*CHOH	0.78	-0.19	0.09
*CH ₂ O	0.80	-0.14	0.07
*CH ₂ OH	1.08	-0.20	0.10
*CH ₃ O	1.08	-0.26	0.11
*CH ₃ OH	1.40	-0.27	0.12
*O	0.08	-0.06	0.03
*OH	0.36	-0.10	0.05
*H ₂ O	0.66	-0.15	0.07
Adsorbate (Mo-N ₂ @BN)	Zero Point Energies	-TS	$\int C_p dT$
*H	0.17	-0.02	0.01
*COOH	0.59	-0.27	0.12
*HCOOH	0.90	-0.25	0.12
*CO	0.19	-0.16	0.07
*COH	0.48	-0.17	0.08
*CHO	0.48	-0.12	0.06

*CHOH	0.78	-0.19	0.09
*CH ₂ O	0.78	-0.16	0.08
*CH ₂ OH	1.08	-0.20	0.10
*CH ₃ O	1.08	-0.21	0.09
*CH ₃ OH	1.38	-0.19	0.09
*O	0.07	-0.07	0.04
*OH	0.32	-0.14	0.07
*H ₂ O	0.61	-0.15	0.08

References

- 1 X. Tan, H. A. Tahini, H. Arandiyani and S. C. Smith, *Adv. Theory Simul.*, 2019, **2**, 1800094.
- 2 Q. Cui, G. Qin, W. Wang, L. Sun, A. Du and Q. Sun, *Beilstein J. Nanotechnol.*, 2019, **10**, 540–548.
- 3 T. Mudchimo, K. Takahashi, P. Mano, V. Sanghiran Lee, T. Rungrotmongkol and S. Namuangruk, *Fuel*, 2022, **319**, 123808.
- 4 B. Huang, Y. Wu, Y. Luo and N. Zhou, *Chem. Phys. Lett.*, 2020, **756**, 137852.