

## Supporting Information

### Atmosphere-Dependent Crystallization of Carbon Nitride: Balancing Activity and Stability for Efficient Photocatalysis

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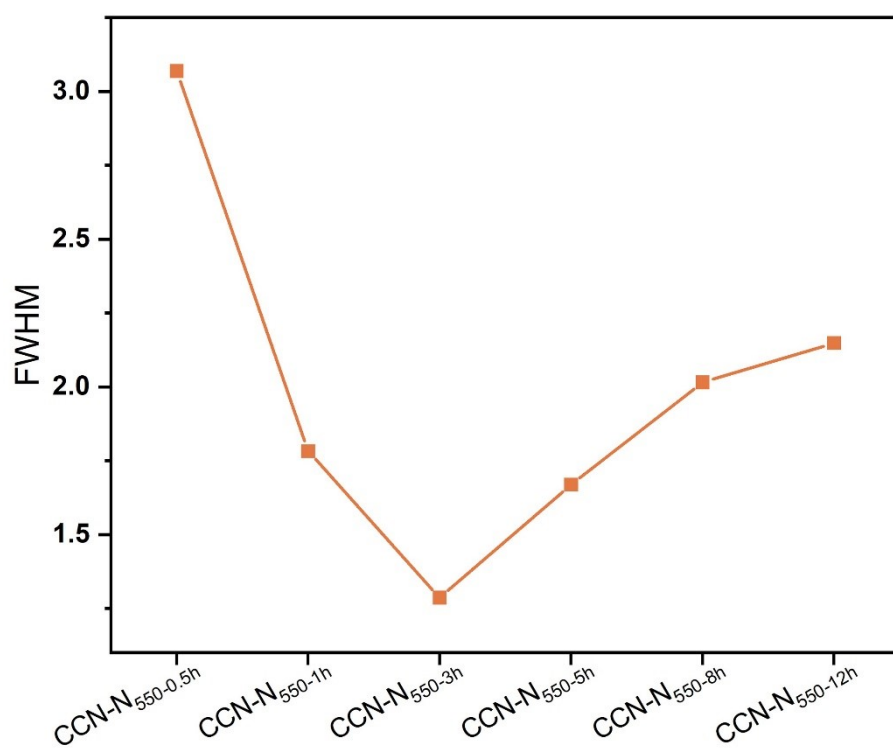
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**Table S1.** A comparative list of hydrogen evolution activity for crystalline carbon nitride obtained under different experimental conditions.

| Precursor     | Atmosphere | Tem./<br>°C                     | Time/h | Salt                                               | Light                            | Cocatalysts                       | Sacrificial Agent | Reaction<br>Tem./°C | H <sub>2</sub> evolution rate<br>(mmol·g <sup>-1</sup> ·h <sup>-1</sup> ) | Ref. |
|---------------|------------|---------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Dicyandiamide | Vacuum     | 550                             | 12     | NaCl, KCl, LiCl                                    | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 300$ nm | 0.5 wt% Co, 1 wt% Pt, 0.75 wt% Cr |                   | 12                  | 6.1                                                                       | 1    |
| Dicyandiamide | Vacuum     | 600                             | 24     | KCl, LiCl                                          | 300 W Xe lamp                    | 1 wt% Pt and 9 wt% Co             | 10 vol% MeOH      |                     | 0.649                                                                     | 2    |
| BCN           | Sealed     | 550                             | 8      | KCl, LiCl                                          | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 300$ nm | 3 wt% Pt                          | 10 vol% TEOA      | 15                  | 5.062                                                                     | 3    |
| P-CN          | Ar         | 550                             | 4      | KCl, LiCl,<br>CoCl <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 420$ nm | 1 wt% Pt                          | 10 vol% TEOA      |                     | 3.538                                                                     | 4    |
| Melon         | Ar         | 400 °C 1 h then<br>500 °C 0.5 h |        | KSCN                                               | 300 W Xe lamp AM 1.5 G           | 8 wt% Pt                          | 10 vol% MeOH      | 25                  | 2.4                                                                       | 5    |
| CN            | Ar         | 550                             | 2      | KCl, ZnCl                                          | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 420$ nm | 3 wt% Pt                          | 10 vol% MeOH      | 15                  | 1.5                                                                       | 6    |

|                                  |                |     |   |                           |                                  |                    |                          |    |       |    |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-----|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----|-------|----|
| MCA-x                            | Ar             | 550 | 4 | KCl, LiCl                 | 300 W Xe lamp AM 1.5G            | 2 wt% Pt           | 1.25 vol% benzyl alcohol | 35 | 7.470 | 7  |
| PCN                              | N <sub>2</sub> | 550 | 3 | KCl                       | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 420$ nm | 1 wt% Pt           | 10 vol% TEOA             | 5  | 1.188 | 8  |
| BCN                              | N <sub>2</sub> | 550 | 4 | KCl, LiCl                 | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 420$ nm | 1 wt% Pt           | 20 vol% lactic acid      |    | 32.1  | 9  |
| BCN                              | N <sub>2</sub> | 550 | 4 | KCl, LiCl                 | 3W LED light $\lambda > 420$ nm  | 1 wt% Pt           | 10 vol% TEOA             |    | 2.457 | 10 |
| g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>  | N <sub>2</sub> | 550 | 4 | KCl, LiCl                 | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 420$ nm | 3 wt% Pt           | 10 vol% MeOH             |    | 1.060 | 11 |
| HCN                              | N <sub>2</sub> | 520 | 4 | NaSCN, NH <sub>4</sub> Cl | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 420$ nm | 3 wt% Pt           | 10 vol% TEOA             |    | 3.550 | 12 |
| Dicyandiamide                    |                | 550 | 4 | NaHCO <sub>3</sub>        | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 420$ nm | 3 wt% Pt           | 10 vol% TEOA             | 15 | 1.26  | 13 |
| Melon                            | N <sub>2</sub> | 550 | 4 | KCl, LiCl                 | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 420$ nm | 3 wt% Pt           | 10 vol% TEOA             | 12 | 6.970 | 14 |
| GCN                              | N <sub>2</sub> | 550 | 4 | KCl, LiCl                 | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 400$ nm | 3 wt% Pt           | 10 vol% MeOH             |    | 8.67  | 15 |
| Co-CN                            | N <sub>2</sub> | 550 | 8 | KCl, LiCl                 | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 400$ nm | 1 wt% Co, 3 wt% Pt |                          |    | 0.44  | 16 |
| Bulk CN <sub>T</sub>             | N <sub>2</sub> | 550 | 4 | KCl, LiCl                 | 300 W Xe lamp                    | 3 wt% Pt           | 10 vol% MeOH             |    | 0.660 | 17 |
| Melem-based oligomer/PCN polymer | N <sub>2</sub> | 550 | 4 | KCl, LiCl                 | 300 W Xe lamp                    |                    |                          |    | /     | 18 |
| Melamine                         | Air            | 550 | 3 | KCl                       | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 420$ nm | 1 wt% Pt           | 10 vol% TEOA             |    | 1.356 | 19 |

|               |     |     |       |                        |                                  |          |                        |    |                           |    |
|---------------|-----|-----|-------|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| Melamine      | Air | 550 | 3     | KBr                    | 500 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 280$ nm | 1 wt% Pd | 16.7 vol% MeOH         | 20 | 1.6                       | 20 |
| CN            | Air | 600 | 0.5-4 | KCl                    | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 420$ nm | 3 wt% Pt | 20 vol% TEOA           | 15 | 5.238                     | 21 |
| Urea          | Air | 600 | 3     | KCl, CaCl <sub>2</sub> | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 420$ nm | 3 wt% Pt | 10 vol% TEOA           | 5  | 5.19                      | 22 |
| Melamine      | Air | 600 | 3     | KCl, MnCl <sub>2</sub> | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 420$ nm | 3 wt% Pt | 10 vol% benzyl alcohol | 10 | 0.792                     | 23 |
| Dicyandiamide | Air | 550 | 4     | KCl                    | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 420$ nm | 3 wt% Pt | 10 vol% TEOA           |    | 0.569                     | 24 |
| Urea          | Air | 600 | 3     | KCl, KOH               | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 420$ nm | 3 wt% Pt | 10 vol% TEOA           |    | 4.008                     | 25 |
| C-CN          | Air | 550 | 2     | KCl, NaCl, LiCl        | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 420$ nm | 3 wt% Pt | 10 vol% TEOA           | 5  | 0.182                     | 26 |
| Mel-T         | Air | 550 | 4     | KCl, LiCl              | 350 W Xe lamp                    | 3 wt% Pt | 10 vol% TEOA           |    | 0.890                     | 27 |
| CM-CN         | Air | 550 | 4     | KCl, LiCl              | 350 W Xe lamp                    | 3 wt% Pt | 4 wt% BPA              |    | 0.151                     | 28 |
| Urea          | Air | 600 | 6     | KCl                    | 300 W Xe lamp $\lambda > 500$ nm | 3 wt% Pt | 20 vol% TEOA           | 15 | 0.922                     | 29 |
| Cu-CN         | Air | 550 | 4     | KCl, LiCl              |                                  |          |                        |    | CO <sub>2</sub> Reduction | 30 |



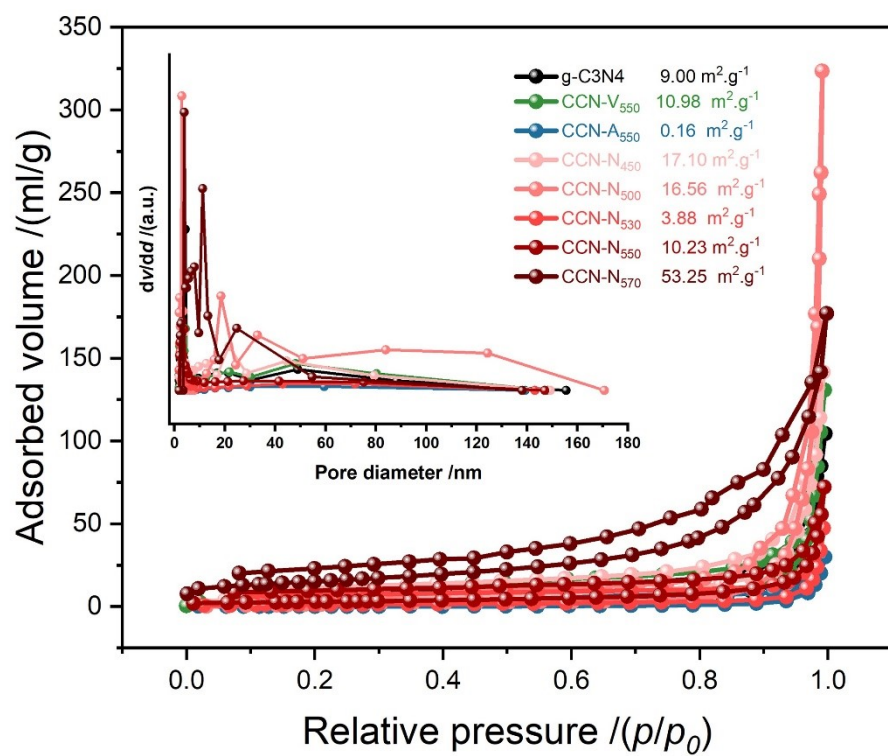
**Figure S1.** FWHM of the (002) peak as a function of calcination time.

**Table S2.** EPR-quantified nitrogen vacancy concentrations.

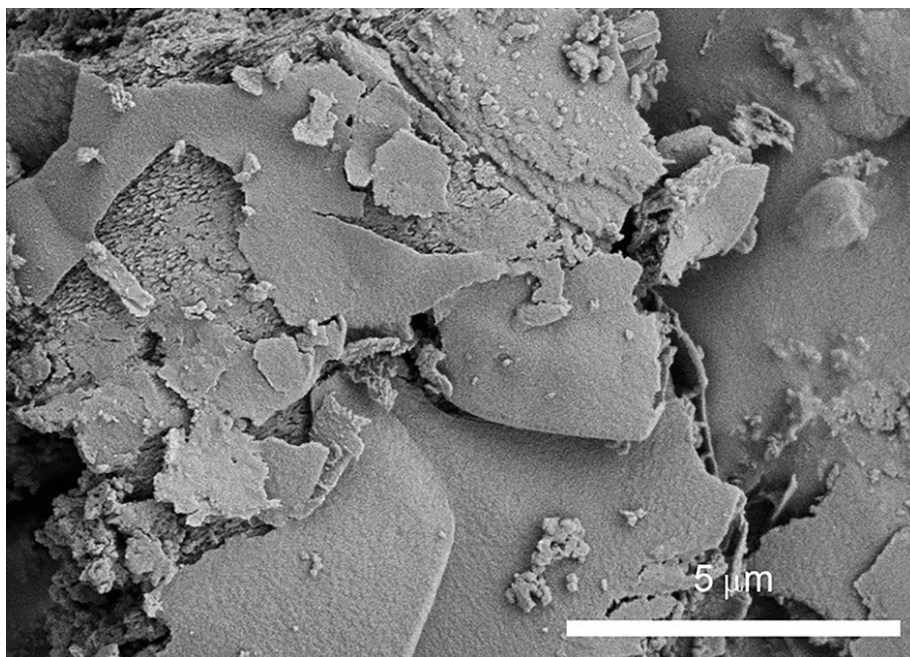
| Concentrations                                 | g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> | CCN-N <sub>550</sub> | CCN-A <sub>550</sub> |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Spins/mm <sup>3</sup> (×<br>10 <sup>16</sup> ) | 2.946                           | 5.566                | 6.933                |

**Table S3.** Elemental composition of g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, CCN-N<sub>550</sub>, and CCN-A<sub>550</sub> determined by elemental analysis.

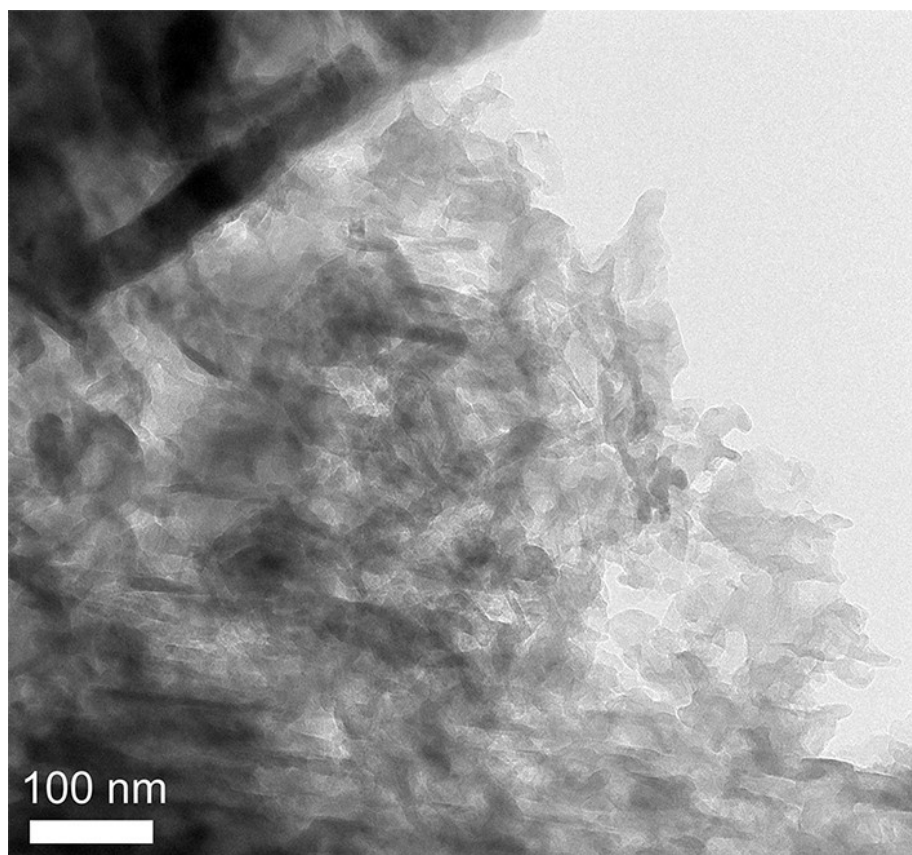
| Elemental analysis | g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> | CCN-N <sub>550</sub> | CCN-A <sub>550</sub> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| C (%)              | 34.79                           | 25.75                | 26.63                |
| N (%)              | 61.59                           | 42.81                | 44.67                |
| H (%)              | 1.88                            | 1.97                 | 2.08                 |
| O (%)              | 1.10                            | 15.41                | 14.89                |
| C/N (mol ratio)    | 0.57                            | 0.60                 | 0.60                 |



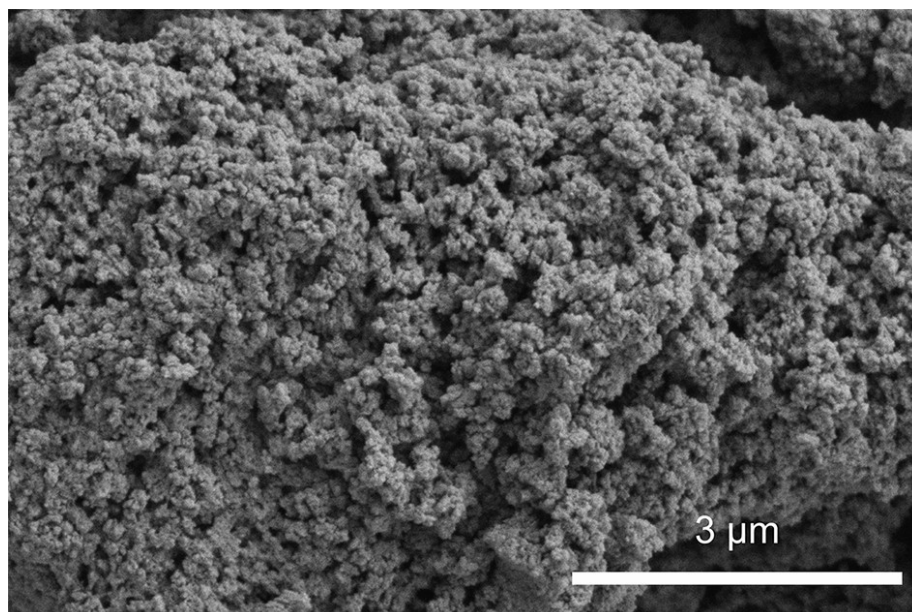
**Figure S2.** Nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms of the synthesized CCN catalysts.



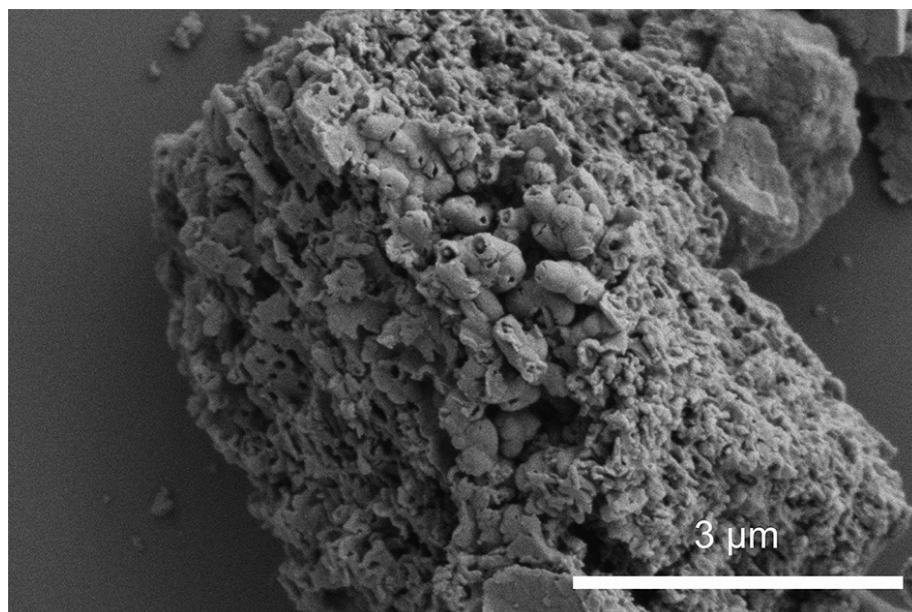
**Figure S3.** SEM images of g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>.



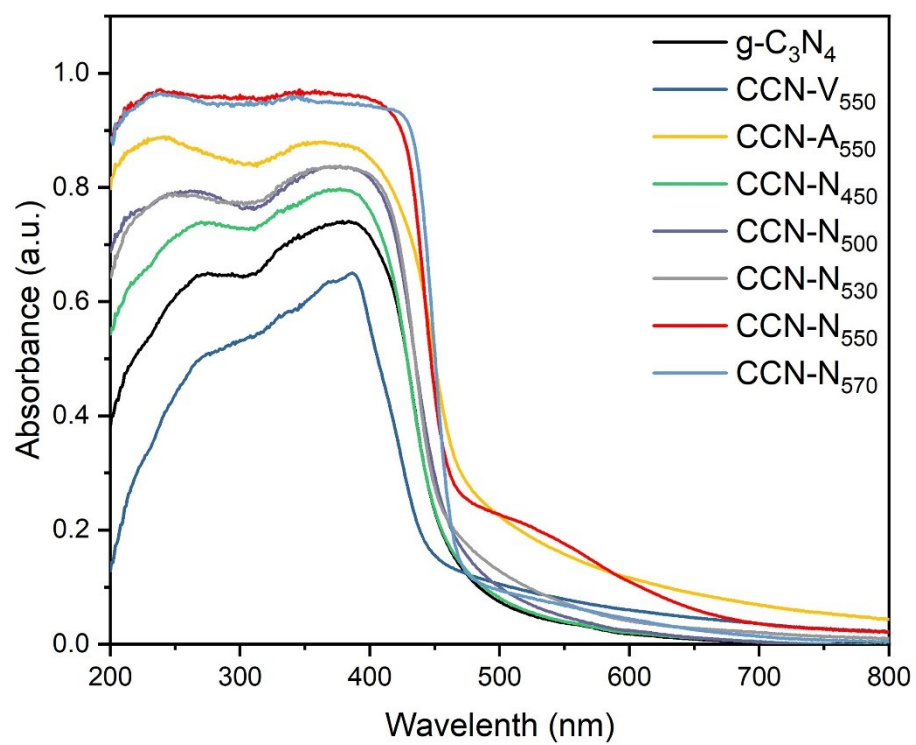
**Figure S4.** TEM images of CCN-V<sub>550</sub>



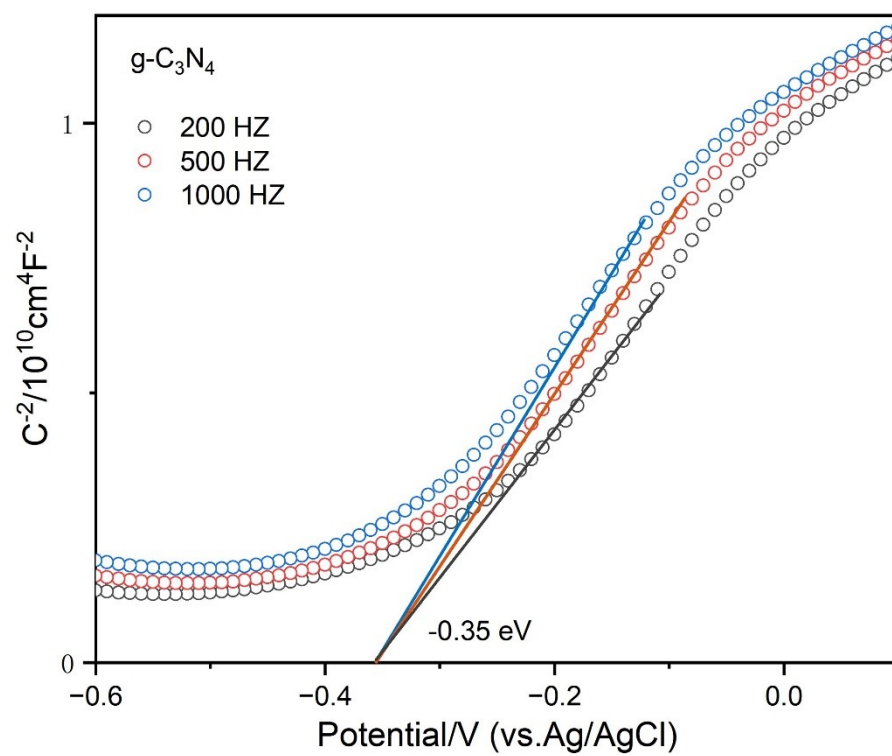
**Figure S5.** SEM images of CCN-N<sub>550</sub>



**Figure S6.** SEM images of CCN-A<sub>550</sub>



**Figure S7.** UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectra (DRS) of samples.

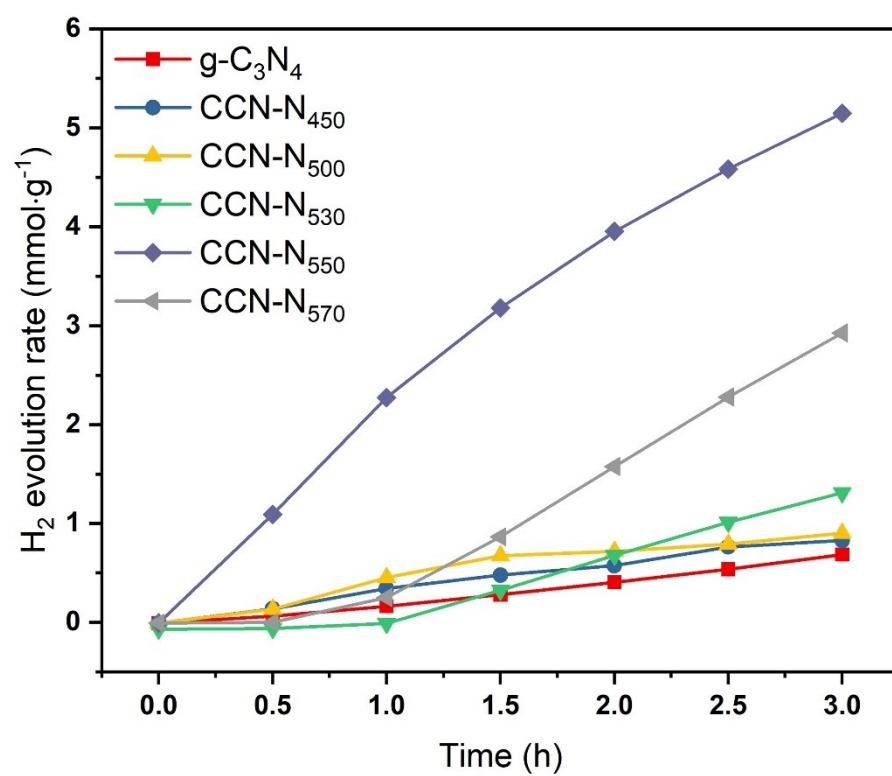


**Figure S8.** Mott-Schottky plots of g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>.

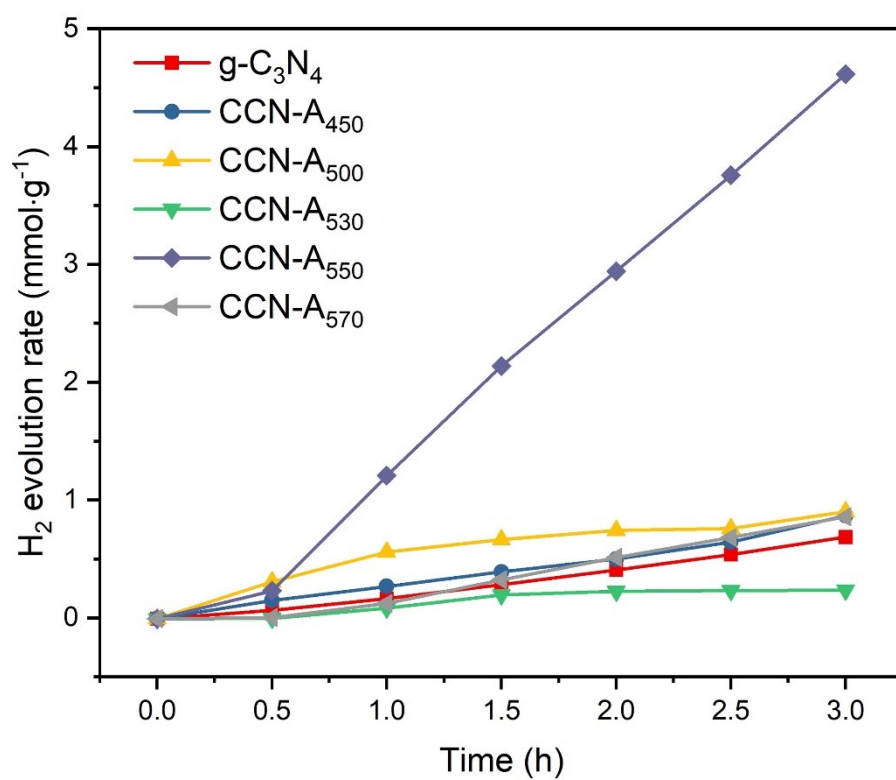
**Table S4.** Electron transfer resistance values derived from the fitted EIS spectra in Figure 6f.

|           | $R_1 / \Omega$                     | $R_1 / \Omega$          | $R_1 / \Omega$          | $R_1 / \Omega$          |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|           | (g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> ) | (CCN-A <sub>550</sub> ) | (CCN-N <sub>550</sub> ) | (CCN-V <sub>550</sub> ) |
| Light off | 23.37                              | 28.54                   | 25.55                   | 26.50                   |
| Light on  | 15.83                              | 12.82                   | 10.88                   | 19.73                   |

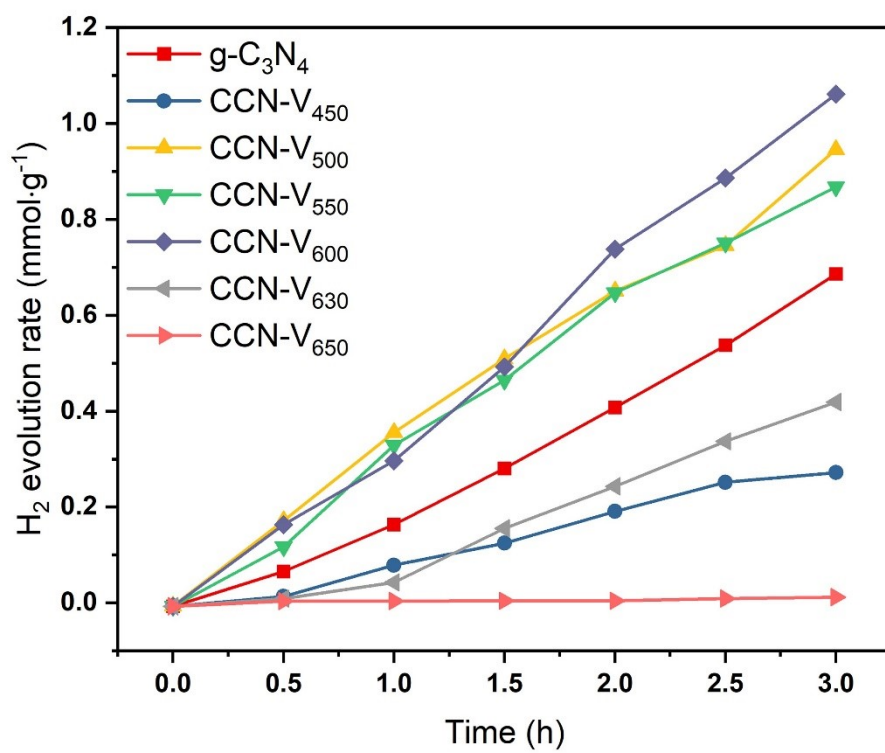
$R_1$  represents the electron transfer impedance.



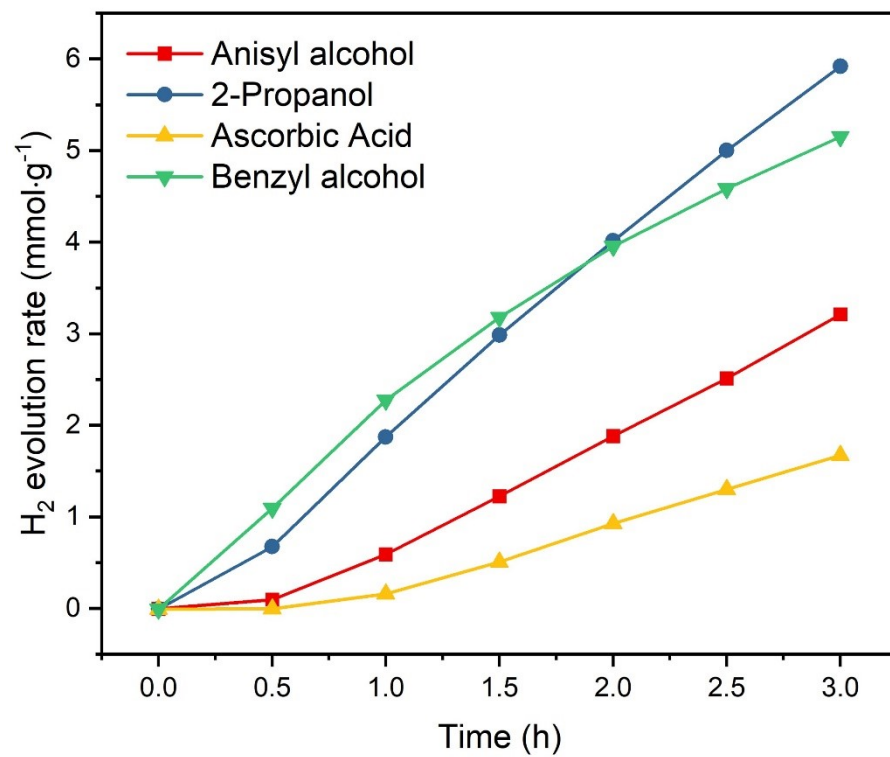
**Figure S9.** Photocatalytic performance of CCN-N<sub>x</sub> and g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>.



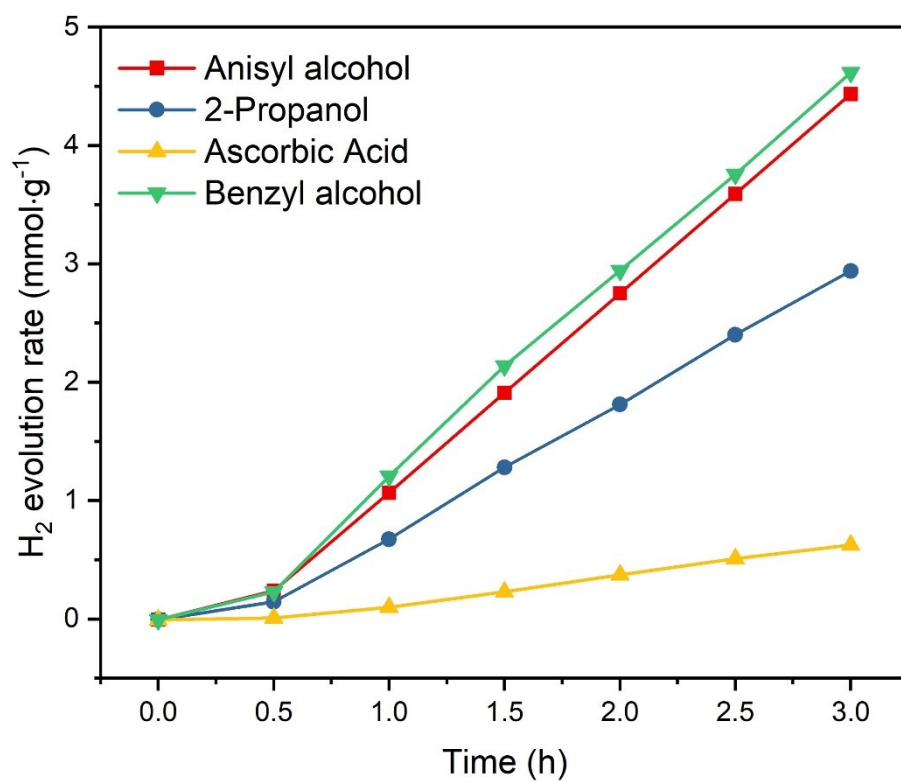
**Figure S10.** Photocatalytic performance of CCN-A<sub>x</sub> and g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>.



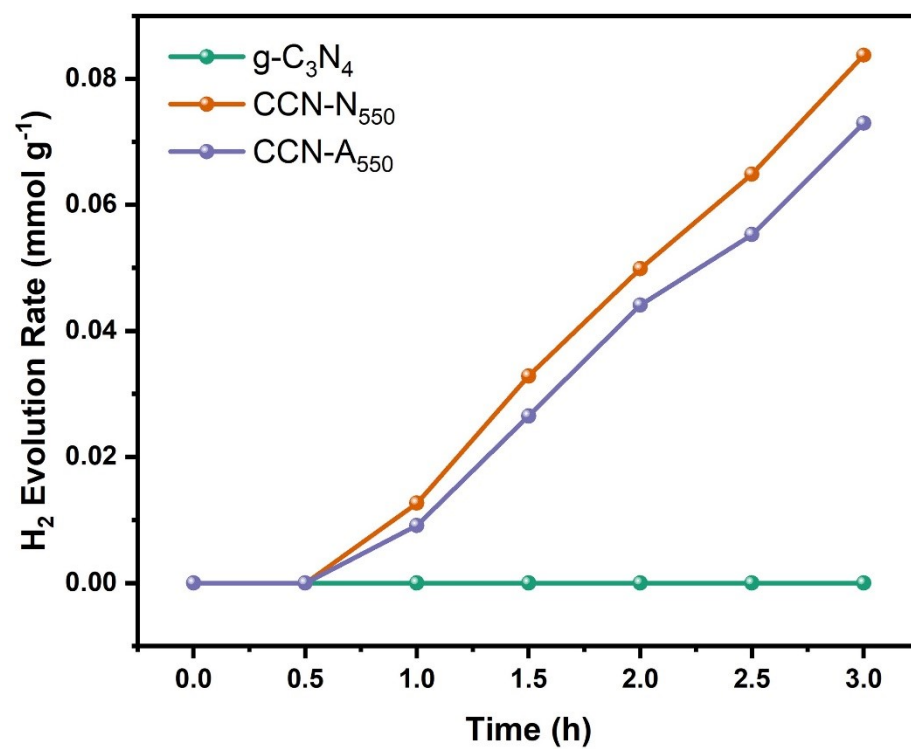
**Figure S11.** Photocatalytic performance of CCN-V<sub>x</sub> and g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>.



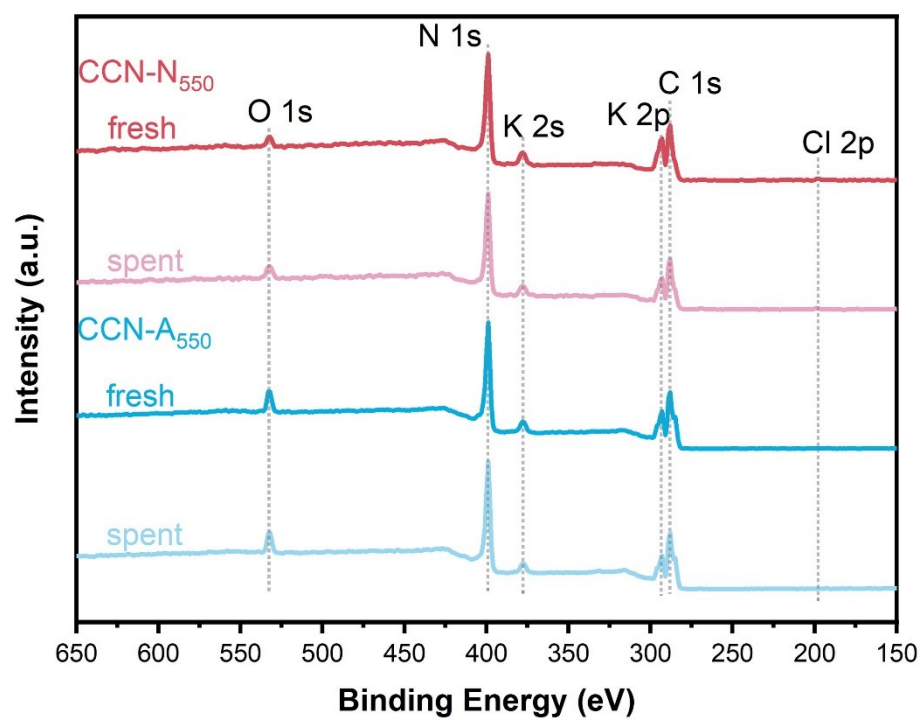
**Figure S12.** Hydrogen evolution activity of CCN-N<sub>550</sub> over different organic substrates.



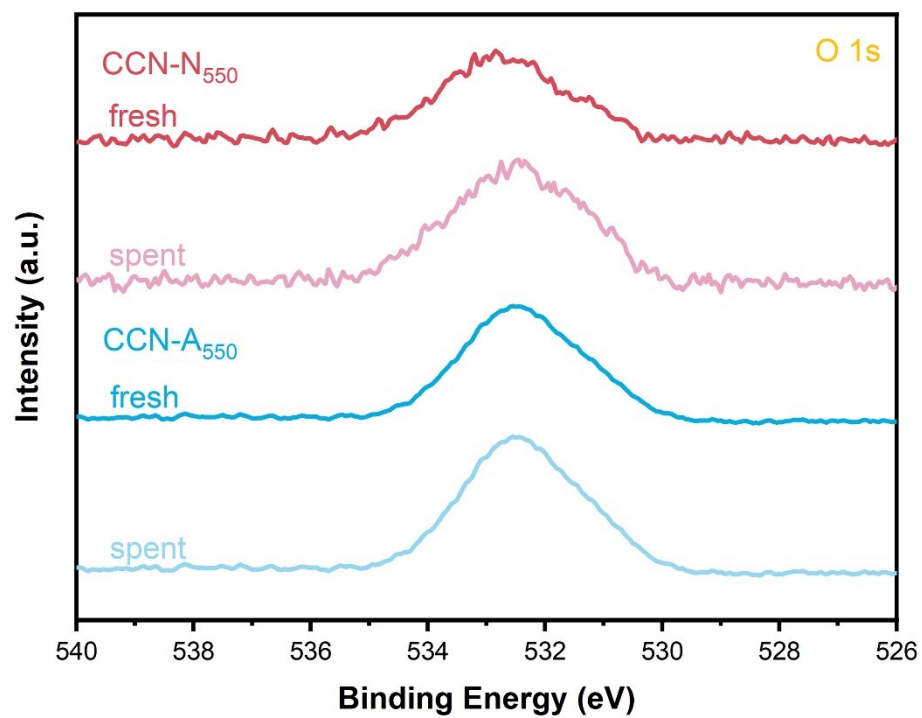
**Figure S13.** Hydrogen evolution activity of CCN-A<sub>550</sub> over different organic substrates.



**Figure S14.** Hydrogen evolution activity of CCN-N<sub>550</sub>, CCN-A<sub>550</sub> and g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> without the addition of organic substrates.



**Figure S15.** XPS survey spectra of fresh and spent catalysts.



**Figure S16.** The high-resolution O 1s XPS spectra of fresh and spent catalysts.

**Table S5.** Comparative K and O contents of CCN-N<sub>550</sub> and CCN-A<sub>550</sub> pre- and post-photocatalysis.

| Sample               |       | K Content<br>(%) | Relative Change<br>(%) | O Content<br>(%) | Relative<br>Change (%) |
|----------------------|-------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| CCN-N <sub>550</sub> | Fresh | 6.53             | 25                     | 2.92             | 85                     |
|                      | Spent | 4.88             |                        | 5.40             |                        |
| CCN-A <sub>550</sub> | Fresh | 5.50             | 15                     | 3.48             | 35                     |
|                      | Spent | 4.67             |                        | 4.70             |                        |

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