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Supplementary Information

2 Nitrogen doping boosted aqueous Zn-CO₂ batteries producing methane and 3 electricity simultaneously

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11 1. Figure and Table Captions

12 **Figure S1.** The Cu-BTC material: (a) SEM image and (b) EDX mapping images of Cu, O and C
13 elements.

14 **Figure S2.** XPS survey spectra of the (a) Cu-BTC and (b) N-Cu-BTC catalyst.

15 **Figure S3.** The O 1s XPS spectra of Cu-BTC and N-Cu-BTC.

16 **Figure S4.** Photographs of (a) the nickel-foam counter electrode, (b) the catalyst-coated working
17 electrode and (c) schematic illustration of the three-chamber flow-type eCO₂RR cell assembly.

18 **Figure S5.** (a) CV and (b) LSV curves of eCO₂RR promoted by Cu-BTC and N-Cu-BTC.

19 **Figure S6.** (a) EF_{CH₄} and (b) FE_{H₂} of eCO₂RR catalyzed by Cu-BTC and N-Cu-BTC.

20 **Figure S7.** Tafel plots of eCO₂RR catalyzed by Cu-BTC and N-Cu-BTC.

21 **Figure S8.** Partial current density for CH₄ formation during eCO₂RR catalyzed by Cu-BTC and
22 N-Cu-BTC.

23 **Figure S9:** The step diagram corrected by VASPSOL considering the solvation effect.

24 **Figure S10.** (a) The Zn anode and (b) N-Cu-BTC working electrode used in the three-chamber
25 flow-type AZCB.

26 **Figure S11.** (a) OCP curves of the Cu-BTC constructed AZCB against CO₂ and Ar
27 gases; (b) Discharge response along power density.

28 **Figure S12.** (a) Polarization charge and discharge curves and (b) Power density curves for AZCBs
29 using Cu-BTC and N-Cu-BTC.

30 **Figure S13.** Comparison of power densities between this work and reported data with CH₄ as the
31 eCO₂RR product.

32 **Figure S14.** The galvanostatic cyclability curve at a current density of 0.5 mA cm⁻² for Cu-BTC.

33 **Figure S15.** Digital photograph for single bulb illuminated by three series of an N-Cu-BTC
34 AZCBs.

35 **Table S1.** Comparison of FE_{CH₄} of eCO₂RR using as prepared electrode.

36 **Table S2.** Comparison of practical discharge capacity and Zn utilization of the Zn–CO₂ battery
37 with the theoretical Zn capacity at different discharge currents.

38 **Table S3.** Comparison of aqueous Zn-CO₂ battery performance with reported data.

39 **2. Experimental Section**

40 **2.1 Chemicals**

41 The reagents included: copper nitrate (Cu(NO₃)₂·3H₂O, 98%, (Sigma-Aldrich)1,3,5-
42 benzenetricarboxylic acid (H₃BTC, 99%, (Sigma-Aldrich), absolute ethanol (C₂H₅OH, 99) were
43 purchased from SCR, Chemical (ptv) Ltd, urea (CO(NH₂)₂, 99%, (Sigma-Aldrich), nitrogen gas
44 (N₂, 99.99%, Linde) . Nafion and de-ionized water, carbon dioxide (CO₂ 99.999%) purity were
45 used. All chemicals are analytical grade and used without any further purification.

46 **2.2 Materials synthesis**

47 **2.2.1 Synthesis of Cu-BTC**

48 Generally, Cu-BTC was synthesized via a solvothermal process. To begin, 2.0 g of copper nitrate
49 trihydrate was dissolved in 50 mL of ethanol, while 1.0 g of 1,3,5-benzenetricarboxylic acid
50 (H₃BTC) was dissolved in a mixture of 30 mL of ethanol and 20 mL of deionized (DI) water.
51 Above solutions were stirred separately to ensure complete dissolution, and then mixed by stirring
52 for 15 minutes to form a homogeneous precursor solution. This solution was transferred into a 100
53 mL Teflon-lined stainless-steel autoclave, sealed tightly, and heated at 80 °C for 72 hours for
54 crystal growth. After which, the autoclave is allowed to cool naturally to room temperature. The
55 blue crystalline product is obtained by vacuum filtration. To eliminate any residual unreacted
56 precursors or impurities, the solid product is washed three times with ethanol and then dried in a
57 vacuum oven at 80 °C for 12 hours.

58 **2.2.2 Synthesis of N-Cu-BTC**

59 N-doped Cu-BTC was synthesized *via* a post-incorporation strategy using urea as the nitrogen
60 source. In detail, pristine Cu-BTC was dispersed in an ethanol-DI water mixture, followed by
61 addition of urea to ensure uniform interactions with MOF, and the suspension was then subjected
62 to solvothermal treatment at 80 °C for 12 hours. During this process, urea gradually decomposed
63 to provide nitrogen species that were incorporated into the ligand environment and coordinated
64 with unsaturated Cu sites, resulting in effective nitrogen doping while maintaining the structural
65 integrity of the framework. After cooling, the product was collected, thoroughly washed with
66 ethanol, and vacuum-dried at 80 °C for 12 hours to obtain N-Cu-BTC.

67 **2.3 Physical characterizations**

68 The crystal structure of the as-prepared materials was also examined by powder X-ray diffraction
69 analysis (XRD, Bruker AXS) at a scanning rate of 5°/min in the range of 20° to 80°. Fourier
70 transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy was performed using an FTIR, Nicolet 6700,
71 spectrometer. The surface morphologies and microstructural analysis of the materials were
72 determined using Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM, Hitachi S-4800 II, Japan). Energy-
73 dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy (EDX) was used in conjunction with scanning electron microscopy
74 (SEM) to obtain elemental composition analysis. X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS) was
75 performed using a PHI 500 ESCA spectrometer to investigate the surface chemical states.

76 **2.4 Electrochemical measurements of eCO₂RR**

77 Electrochemical testing of eCO₂RR was conducted in a three-chamber flow-type electrolyser using
78 a CHI electrochemical workstation (CHI 760E). The working electrode was prepared by coating
79 the catalyst ink onto carbon paper with an exposed area of 1 × 1 cm² and a catalyst loading of 10
80 mg cm⁻². A nickel-foam electrode and an Ag/AgCl/saturated KCl electrode were used as the
81 counter and reference electrodes, respectively. The electrolyte was 1 M KOH, and CO₂ was
82 continuously supplied at 80 mL min⁻¹ to maintain saturation during eCO₂RR. The anodic and
83 cathodic chambers were separated by an FAA-3-50 anion-exchange membrane (Fumasep), which
84 provided ionic conduction while minimizing electrolyte crossover. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) was
85 performed at a scan rate of 0.1 V/s in the potential range of 0.0 V to -3.0 V (vs. reversible hydrogen
86 electrode, RHE). Linear sweep voltammetry (LSV) was conducted with a scan rate of 0.01 V/s
87 from 0 V to -3.0 V vs RHE. Electrochemical impedance (EIS) measurement was conducted over
88 a frequency range of 0.01Hz to 10⁶ Hz at an applied potential of -2.25V. All potentials were
89 calibrated relative to the RHE using the equation:

90
$$E_{\text{RHE}} = E_{\text{Ag/AgCl}} + 0.0591 \times \text{pH} + 0.197 \text{ V}$$

91 To further evaluate the reaction kinetics of the catalysts, Tafel plots were derived from the
92 polarization data. The fitted Tafel slopes are 230 mV dec⁻¹ for Cu-BTC and 160 mV dec⁻¹ for N-
93 Cu-BTC, indicating faster interfacial charge-transfer kinetics after nitrogen doping. In addition,
94 the partial current density for CH₄ was calculated from the total current density and the
95 corresponding FE_{CH₄} values at different applied potentials. N-Cu-BTC exhibits a higher CH₄
96 partial current density than Cu-BTC over the investigated potential range, further confirming its
97 superior catalytic activity and selectivity toward CH₄ formation.

98 Tafel plots were constructed by plotting potential (V vs RHE) against log₁₀(j) and fitting the linear,
99 kinetically controlled region (0.05-0.30 mA cm⁻²) to the Tafel equation:

100
$$E = a + b \times \log_{10}(j)$$

101 where b is the Tafel slope.

102 **2.5 Analysis of eCO₂RR products**

103 The gaseous products of eCO₂RR were quantified using gas chromatography (GC), equipped with
104 a thermal conductivity detector (TCD) for measuring H₂ and a flame ionization detector (FID) for
105 measuring aliphatic hydrocarbons, such as CH₄ and C₂H₄. Calibration was conducted using
106 reference gas mixtures with an established concentration for the calibration of each product. The
107 Faraday efficiency (FE), current density, and selective reduction of CO₂ to CH₄ were investigated
108 by applying over-potentials in a potential range of -1.0 V to -2.75 V vs RHE. The following
109 formula can calculate the FE of products:

110
$$FE(\%) = \left(\frac{n \times N_{\text{product}} \times F}{Q_{\text{total}}} \right) \times 100$$

111 • n is the number of electrons transferred during eCO₂RR

112 • F is the Faraday constant (96485 C mol⁻¹)

113 • N is the number of moles of product

114 • Q total is the total charge passed

115 CH₄ was quantified by gas chromatography during eCO₂RR under continuous CO₂ supply,
116 providing strong evidence for CO₂-involved methane formation. In addition, isotope-tracing with

117 labeled CO₂ offers a rigorous route for direct carbon-source verification; under alkaline conditions,
118 this can be expressed as $^{13}\text{CO}_2 + 6\text{H}_2\text{O} + 8\text{e}^- \rightarrow ^{13}\text{CH}_4 + 8\text{OH}^-$.

119 **2.5.1 Discussion of reaction kinetics and selectivity at negative potentials**

120 Although the optimal eCO₂RR performance was obtained at a relatively negative potential, the
121 reaction was conducted in strongly alkaline 1 M KOH within a three-chamber flow-type
122 electrolyser under continuous CO₂ supply. Under these conditions, the reduced proton
123 concentration helps suppress HER, while the flow-type configuration improves CO₂ transport to
124 the cathode. In addition, the carbon-paper substrate provides a relatively hydrophobic gas-
125 diffusion interface, which helps maintain CO₂ access and limit water access to the catalytic sites,
126 suppressing HER. More importantly, N-Cu-BTC exhibits faster interfacial kinetics than Cu-BTC,
127 as evidenced by its lower charge-transfer resistance, higher C_{dl}, and smaller Tafel slope. In
128 parallel, DFT calculations show that nitrogen incorporation lowers the free-energy barrier of the
129 potential-determining *CO → *CHO step and enhances charge transfer between Cu sites and
130 carbonaceous intermediates. These combined effects explain why CH₄ formation remains favored
131 over HER even at relatively negative potentials.

132 **2.5.2 Ar control experiment for CH₄ verification**

133 To further examine the carbon origin of methane product, a control experiment was performed
134 under identical eCO₂RR conditions using Ar gas instead of CO₂ as the feeding gas. GC-FID
135 analysis shows a clear CH₄ peak under CO₂ flow, whereas no detectable CH₄ peak is observed
136 under Ar flow. Because CH₄ is detected only in the presence of CO₂ and disappear completely
137 under Ar, this comparison strongly supports that methane formation originates from CO₂ reduction
138 rather than from background contamination or other carbon sources in the system.

139 **2.6 Assembly of aqueous Zn-CO₂ Batteries**

140 The Zn-CO₂ battery measurements were also carried out in a three-chamber flow-type cell under
141 continuous CO₂ and electrolyte flow, with two electrodes. For the cathode, the catalyst ink was
142 spray-coated onto carbon paper with an exposed area of 1 × 1 cm², corresponding to a catalyst
143 loading of 10 mg cm⁻². A polished Zn plate was used as the anode. The catholyte was 1 M KOH,
144 and the anolyte was 6 M KOH + 0.2 M Zn(CH₃COO)₂, which are separated by an FAA-3-50 anion-
145 exchange membrane (Fumasep) acting as the ion-conducting separator enabling anion transport
146 between the two compartments while minimizing electrolyte crossover. During operation,
147 electrons were transferred through the external circuit, whereas charge balance across the battery

148 was maintained by ion migration through the membrane. CO₂ was continuously introduced to the
 149 cathode side during battery operation to maintain catholyte saturation. The three-chamber flow-
 150 type design, together with flowing anolyte, catholyte, and gas, improve CO₂ utilization and reduces
 151 product crossover. Various performance parameters were evaluated for the battery, including the
 152 determination of the open-circuit potential (OCP) for stable performance and linear sweep
 153 voltammetry (LSV) for assessing discharging and charging capabilities at a scan rate of 5 mV/s.

154 2.7 Parameter calculation for aqueous Zn-CO₂ batteries

155 Theoretical energy efficiency can be calculated using the following equation:

$$156 \quad EE = \frac{\Delta G_{output}}{\Delta G_{input}} = \frac{nE_{discharge}F + \Delta G_{CO_2 splitting}}{nE_{charge}F}$$

$$157 \quad \Delta G_{CO_2 splitting} = 257.38 \text{ kJmol}^{-1}$$

158 During the discharging process of AZCBs, the competitive hydrogen evolution reaction (HER)
 159 produces H₂, which affects the battery performance. The energy efficiency (EE) of AZCBs can be
 160 calculated as follows:

$$161 \quad EE = \frac{\Delta G_{output}}{\Delta G_{input}} = \frac{nE_{discharge}F + FE_{CH_4} \times \Delta G_{CO_2 splitting} + FE_{HER} \times \Delta G_{H_2O splitting}}{nE_{charge}F}$$

$$162 \quad \Delta G_{H_2O splitting} = 257.38 \text{ KJmol}^{-1}$$

163 To calculate the theoretical potential (V) for AZCBs, the anodic and cathodic reactions are shown
 164 as follows.

165 For the cathodic discharging of AZCBs, the following reaction happen:

166 **At the cathode:** (1 M KOH), pH =14

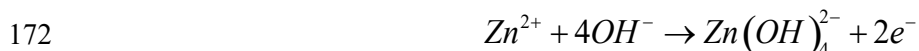


$$168 \quad E_c = E_{CO_2/CH_4}^\theta - \frac{RT}{nF} \ln \left[\frac{1}{\alpha_{H^+}^2} \right] = -0.65 \text{ V} - \frac{8.314 \times 298.15}{8 \times 96485} \ln \frac{1}{(10^{-14})^2} = -0.857 \text{ V}$$

169 Where $E_{CO_2/CH_4}^\theta = -0.65 \text{ V}$ vs. SHE

170 **At the anode:** (6 M KOH + 0.2 M Zn (CH₃COO)₂)

171 For the anodic discharging of AZCBs, the following reaction happen.





174
$$E_a = E_{\text{ZnO}(\text{OH})_4^{2-}}^\theta - \frac{RT}{nF} \ln \left[\frac{\alpha_{\text{Zn}}}{\alpha_{\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_4^{2-}}} \right] = -1.255\text{V} - \frac{8.314 \times 298.15}{8 \times 96485} \ln \left[\frac{1}{0.2} \right] \text{V} = -1.260\text{V}$$

175
$$E_{\text{ZnO}(\text{OH})_4^{2-}}^\theta = -1.255\text{V vs SHE}$$

176 Therefore, the overall battery reaction during discharging is as follows:



178 The theoretical potential of AZCBs should be calculated using the below equation:

179
$$E_{\text{theo}} = E_c - E_a = -0.857\text{V} - (-1.260\text{V}) = 0.403\text{V}$$

180 Whereas R is 8.314 J K⁻¹ mol⁻¹ (molar gas constant), T = 298.15 K, n = 8 (total number of electrons
181 transferred per mole of product), F = 96485 C mol⁻¹ (Faraday Constant), and α is the corresponding
182 activity. The theoretical energy density can be calculated by multiplying the specific capacity by
183 the theoretical potential of the system.

184
$$ED_{\text{Zn-CO}_2} = C_{\text{Zn}} \times E_{\text{theo}} = 825\text{mAh}^{-1} \times 0.418\text{V} = 332.4\text{Whkg}^{-1}$$

185 C_{Zn} is the theoretical energy density of AZCBs using Zn anodes.

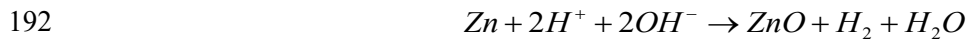
186 Additionally, HER also occurs during battery discharging, competing with the CO₂-to-CH₄ electro
187 conversion process.



189
$$E_c = E_{\text{H}^+/\text{H}_2}^\theta - \frac{RT}{nF} \ln \left[\frac{\alpha_{\text{H}_2}}{\alpha_{\text{H}^+}^2} \right] = -0.83\text{V} - \frac{8.314 \times 298.15}{2 \times 96485} \ln \left[\frac{1}{(10^{-14})^2} \right] \text{V} = -1.65\text{V}$$

190
$$E_{\text{H}^+/\text{H}_2}^\theta = -0.83\text{V vs. SHE}$$

191 The overall reaction of the discharging process along Zn oxidation and HER:



193
$$E'_{\text{theo}} = E'_c - E_a = -1.65\text{V} - (-1.260\text{V}) = -0.39\text{V}$$

194 During charging, water oxidation reaction happens at the cathode as follows.



196
$$E'_c = E_{\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{O}_2}^\theta - \frac{RT}{nF} \ln \left[\frac{\alpha_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}}{\alpha_{\text{O}_2}^{1/2} \alpha_{\text{H}^+}^2} \right] = 1.229\text{V} - \frac{8.314 \times 298.15}{4 \times 96485} \ln \left[\frac{1}{1 \times (10^{-14})^2} \right] \text{V} = 0.814\text{V}$$

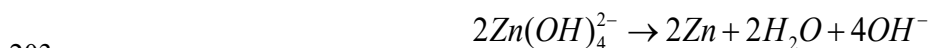
197 Where,

$$198 \quad E_{H_2O/O_2}^{\theta} = 1.229V \text{ vs. SHE}$$

199 While, the following reactions happen at the anode during charging.



202 So, the overall reaction during charging is as follows:



$$204 \quad E_{theo}'' = E_c'' - E_a = 0.814V - (-1.26 V) = 2.077V$$

205 During discharge, the N-Cu-BTC-coated cathode catalyzes CO₂ reduction into CH₄ (CO₂ + 8e +
206 6H₂O → CH₄ + 8OH⁻), while the Zn electrode is oxidized (Zn - 2e → Zn²⁺) in the alkaline Zn-
207 containing anolyte. While during charging, the reverse process occurs, in which zinc-containing
208 species are reduced and re-deposited on the Zn electrode (Zn²⁺ + 2e → Zn), while the counter
209 reaction in the opposite alkaline compartment is water oxidation (2H₂O - 4e → O₂ + 4H⁺). The
210 three-compartment cell configuration with an anion-exchange membrane minimizes crossover
211 between the two electrode chambers. Moreover, charge and discharge are performed sequentially,
212 so gaseous products generated during discharge are collected separately from the cathode outlet
213 and were not directly mixed with those from the charging step.

214 **2.7.1 Practical discharge capacity and Zn utilization**

215 The practical discharge capacity of the Zn-CO₂ battery was calculated from the galvanostatic
216 discharge current and discharge time according to Q_{practical}=I×t, where I is the discharge current
217 and t is the discharge time. Using a Zn mass of 0.571 g and the theoretical specific capacity of Zn
218 (820 mAh g⁻¹), the theoretical capacity was calculated to be 468 mAh. Based on a fixed discharge
219 time of 0.083 h (5 min), the practical capacities at 1–5 mA were 0.083, 0.166, 0.250, 0.333, and
220 0.416 mAh, respectively, corresponding to specific capacities of 0.145, 0.291, 0.437, 0.583, and
221 0.729 mAh g⁻¹ and Zn utilizations of 0.017, 0.035, 0.053, 0.071, and 0.088%, respectively. These
222 low utilization values reflect the short discharge intervals used for proof-of-concept battery
223 evaluation rather than full Zn consumption.

224 **2.7.2 Discussion of the FE_{CH4} difference between the three-electrode eCO₂RR system and the** 225 **AZCB device**

226 The lower FE_{CH_4} observed in the AZCB device compared with the maximum value achieved in
227 the three-electrode eCO_2RR system mainly arises from the fundamentally different operating
228 conditions of these two configurations. In the three-electrode flow electrolyser, the cathode
229 potential can be independently controlled and optimized, allowing electron transfer to be directed
230 more selectively toward the CO_2 -to- CH_4 pathway. By contrast, in the full two-electrode AZCB,
231 the cathodic eCO_2RR is coupled with Zn oxidation, governed by the overall battery discharge
232 process including current load, internal resistance, ion transport, and gas-supply conditions.
233 Consequently, the cathodic electron flow is less selectively utilized for CH_4 formation and is more
234 strongly influenced by polarization losses and competing HER during practical battery operation.
235 Moreover, the lower CO_2 flow rate in the AZCB further limits local CO_2 availability at the cathode
236 interface, leading to a lower FE_{CH_4} than that observed in the optimized half-cell measurement.

237 **3. Computational methods**

238 When studying the N-Cu-BTC catalyst, computational techniques were employed in parallel with
239 experimental data to provide theoretical insights into the structure and electron configuration of
240 the catalyst. The methods incorporated density functional theory estimates and structural
241 optimization to simulate the supporting role of the catalyst in heterogeneous catalytic and
242 electrochemical processes.

243 In the first stage, the structure of N-Cu-BTC was simulated using data extracted from the
244 diffraction patterns of the unit cell and SEM images. These XRD patterns were used for the
245 identification of the crystal structure and lattice parameters of both the parent Cu-BTC and the
246 nitrogen-doped N-Cu-BTC framework. Therefore, the crystal face of the structure was cut and
247 enlarged to simulate the material's behavior in both the bulk and at the surface. Based on the XPS
248 analysis, the presence of nitrogen species in N-Cu-BTC was considered. Further, it introduced the
249 nitrogen functional groups to the theoretical model by modifying the ligand framework.

250 The computational calculations were performed using the MedeA-VASP package, applying
251 density functional theory (DFT) with a plane-wave basis set. The electron-ion interactions were
252 treated within the projector augmented wave (PAW) method, while the electron-electron
253 exchange-correlation interactions were described using the PBE functional. This functional,
254 belonging to the category of the generalized gradient approximation (GGA), was designed to
255 achieve a reasonable computational time and acceptable accuracy in describing the structural and
256 electronic characteristics.

257 For structure optimization, the RMM-DIIS technique was employed to maintain high
258 computational speed while minimizing errors. The cutoff energy for the plane-wave method was
259 400 eV, and the integration thresholds for electronic self-consistent iterations and ion optimization
260 were 10^{-4} eV and 10^{-5} eV, respectively. Since the calculations of energy can be sensitive to the
261 smearing width of partially occupied electronic states, a Gaussian smearing width of 0.05 eV was
262 maintained in this work.

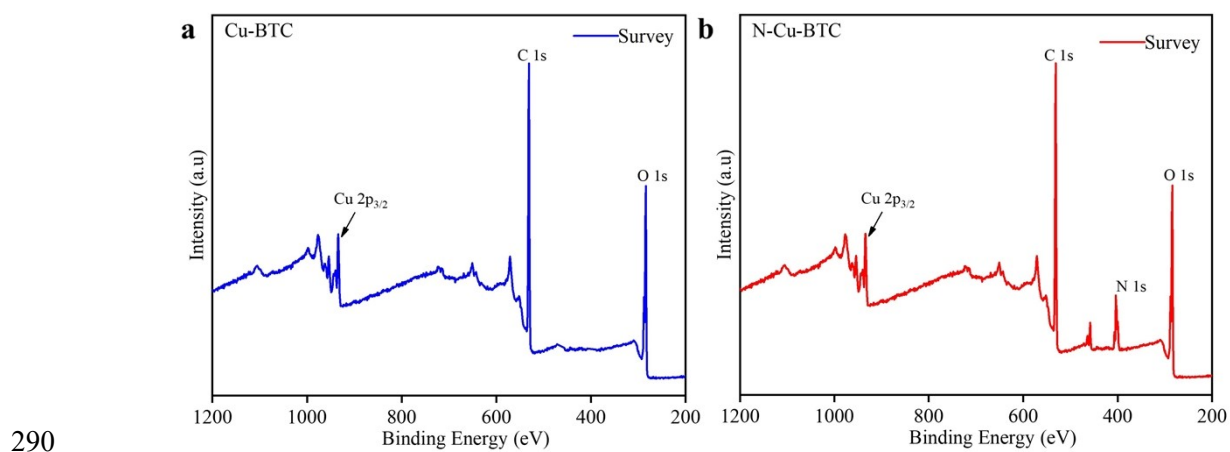
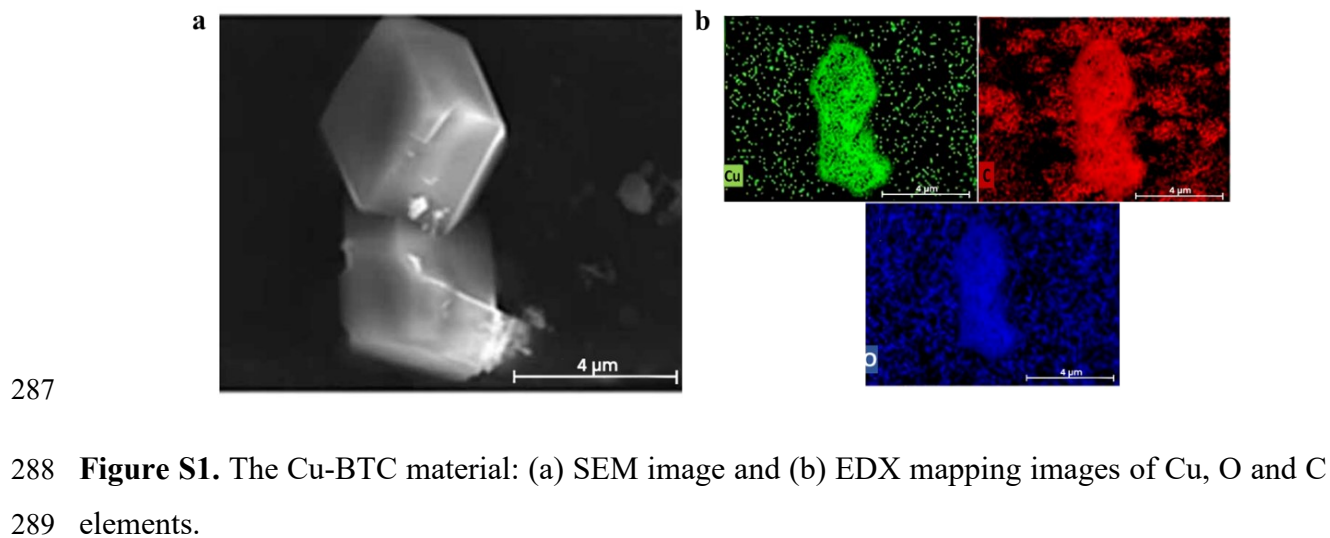
263 The Brillouin zone was sampled with a 1x1x1 Monkhorst-Pack grid, which was enough to seek
264 the unit cell size of N-Cu-BTC. To incorporate information on strong electron correlation effects
265 in the d-orbitals of the Cu atoms, Hubbard-U corrections (DFT+U) were employed to enhance the
266 reliability of the model in transition metal-based systems.

267 Electron density maps and adsorption energy calculations were performed to study the adsorption
268 of CO₂ on the N-Cu-BTC catalyst surface. The nitrogen doping sites were also examined to
269 determine the new electron density and any potential for a new active site. Further, the atomic
270 structure of the films proposed by the model was compared with real XRD patterns and electronic
271 properties.

272 These computational methods enabled the revelation of structural characteristics, electronic
273 properties, and catalytic activity of N-Cu-BTC, facilitating a better understanding of the
274 performance benefits of N-Cu-BTC compared to Cu-BTC.

275 To better reflect the real electrocatalytic environment and clarify the limitations of the present DFT
276 model, the following considerations were included in the revised analysis. In the present work, the
277 DFT model was constructed using a simplified Cu-BTC unit-cell framework with idealized
278 nitrogen incorporation in order to capture the dominant electronic-structure and reaction-energy
279 trends at a computationally practical level. To better approximate the real aqueous electrocatalytic
280 environment, the solvent effect was further considered using the VASPSOL implicit solvent model
281 with a dielectric constant of 78.5. After introducing the solvent correction, the absolute energetics
282 of the adsorbed intermediates were modified to some extent, but the overall mechanistic trend
283 remained unchanged, namely that nitrogen incorporation lowers the free-energy barrier of the key
284 *CO → *CHO step. The DFT results are interpreted as relative mechanistic trends rather than a
285 complete quantitative description of the operating electrochemical interface.

286 **4. Supporting Figures**



291 **Figure S2.** XPS survey spectra of the (a) Cu-BTC and (b) N-Cu-BTC catalyst.

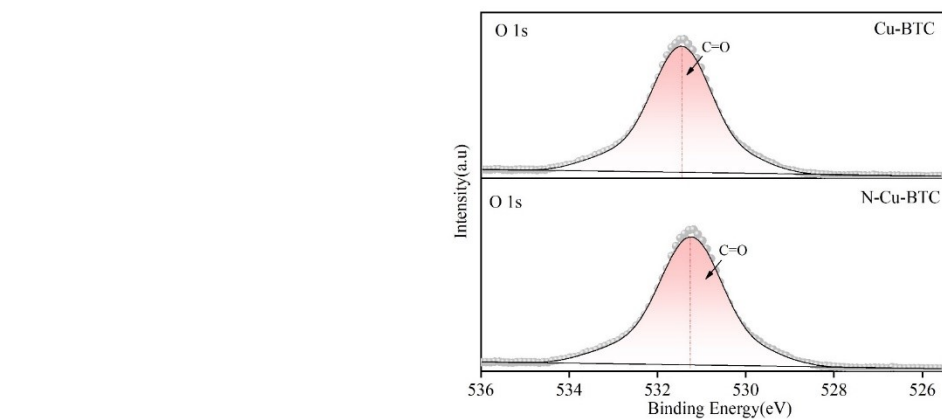
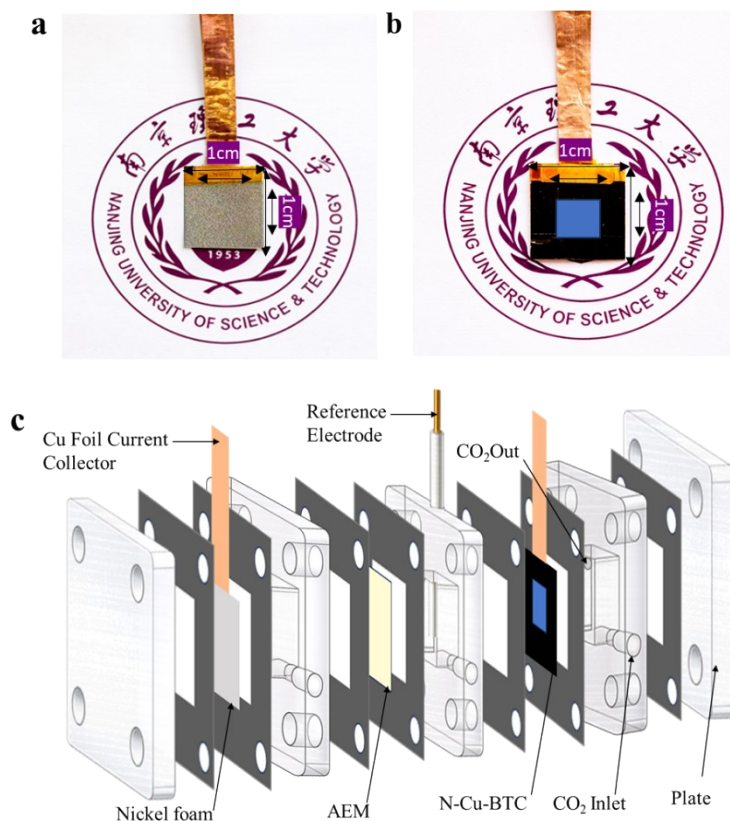
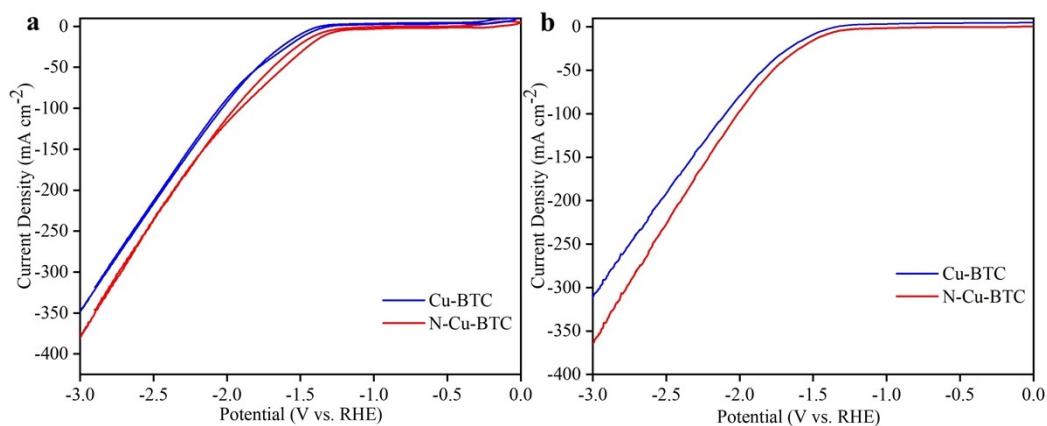


Figure S3. O 1s spectrum of Cu-BTC and N-Cu-BTC.

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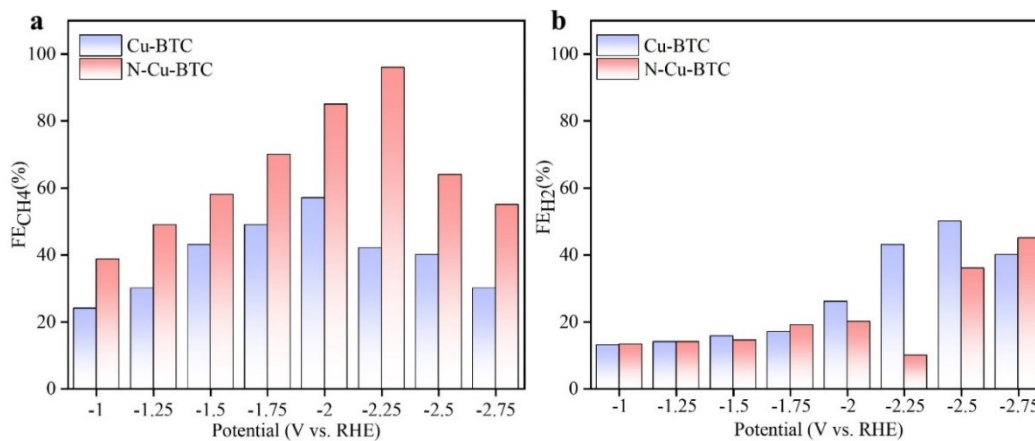
295 **Figure S4.** Photographs of (a) the nickel-foam counter electrode, (b) the catalyst-coated working
 296 electrode and (c) schematic illustration of the three-chamber flow-type eCO₂RR cell assembly. For
 297 battery testing, we remove the reference electrode and replace the nickel foam with Zn plates.



298

299 **Figure S5.** (a) CV and (b) LSV curves of eCO₂RR promoted by Cu-BTC and N-Cu-BTC.

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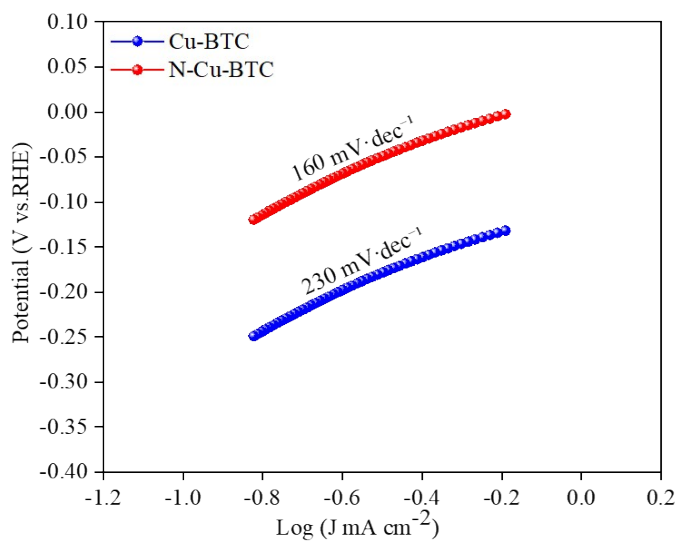


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303 **Figure S6.** (a) EF_{CH_4} and (b) FE_{H_2} of eCO_2RR catalyzed by Cu-BTC and N-Cu-BTC.

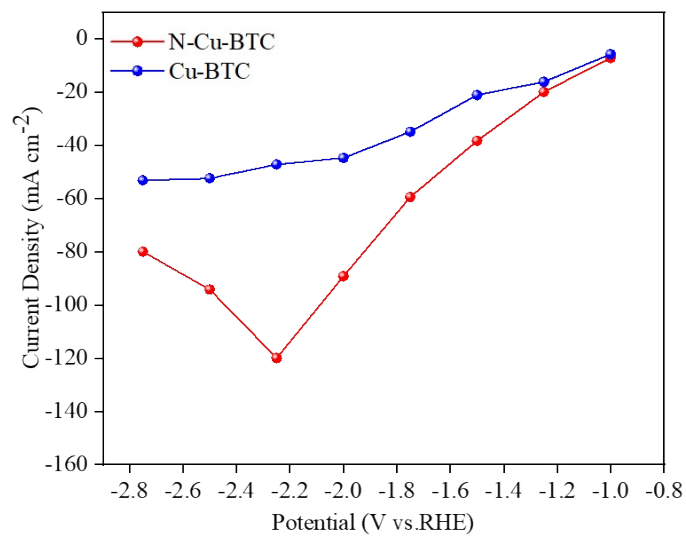
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306 **Figure S7.** Tafel plots of eCO_2RR catalyzed by Cu-BTC and N-Cu-BTC.

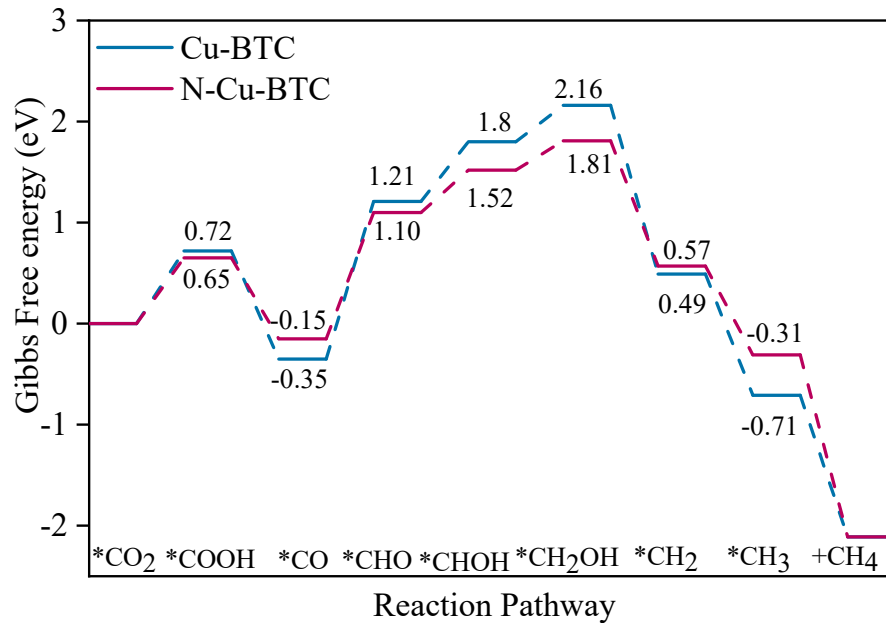
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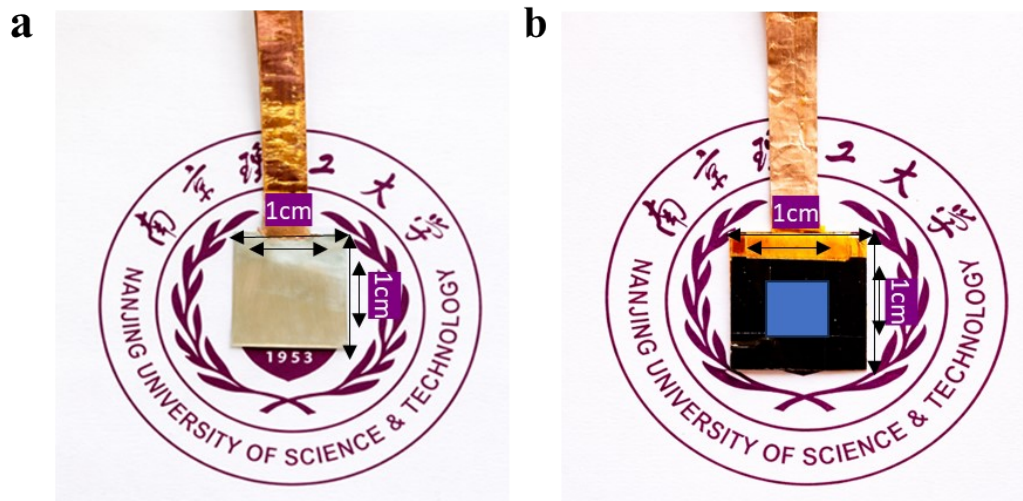
309 **Figure S8.** Partial current density for CH₄ formation during eCO₂RR catalyzed by Cu-BTC and
310 N-Cu-BTC.

311



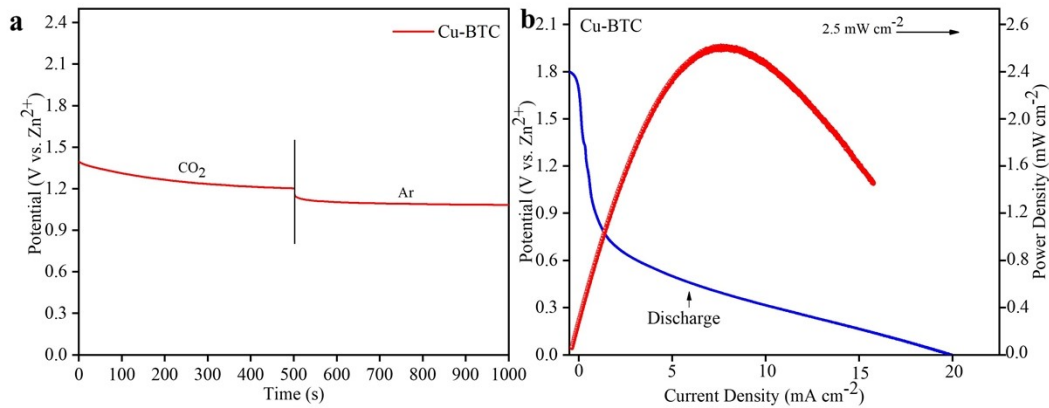
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313 **Figure S9:** The reaction diagram corrected by VASPSOL considering the solvation effect.



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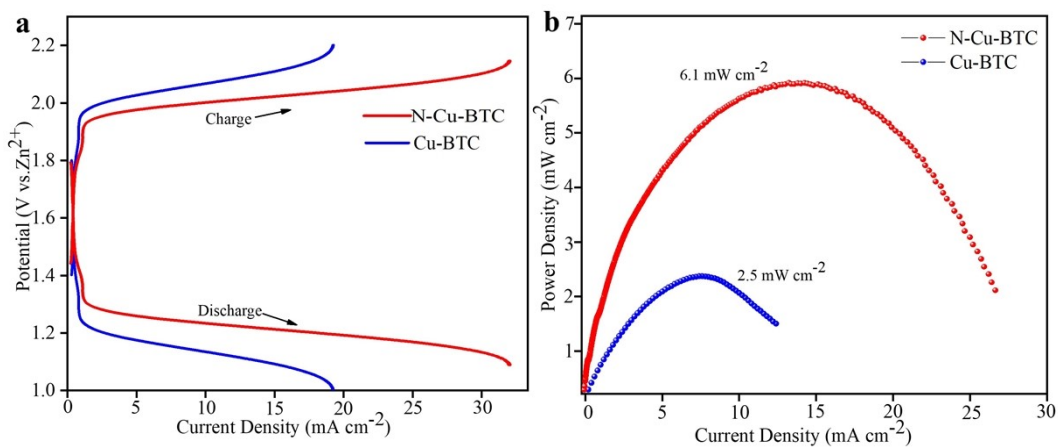
315 **Figure S10.** (a) The Zn anode and (b) N-Cu-BTC working electrode used in the three-chamber
 316 flow-type AZCB.



317

318 **Figure S11.** (a) OCP curves of the Cu-BTC constructed AZCB against CO₂ and Ar
 319 gases; (b) Discharge response along power density.

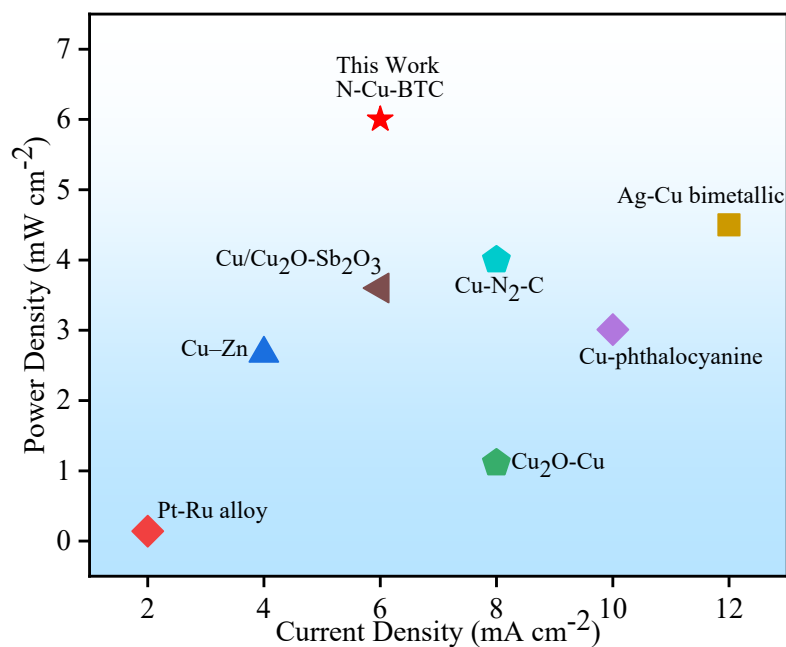
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322 **Figure S12.** (a) Polarization charge and discharge curves and (b) Power density curves for AZCBs
 323 using Cu-BTC and N-Cu-BTC.

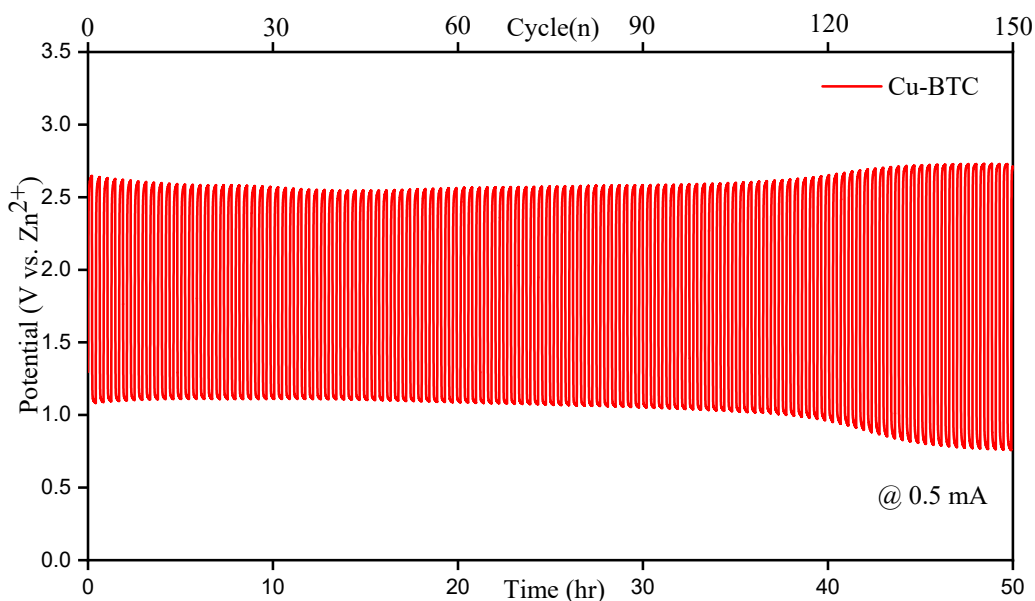
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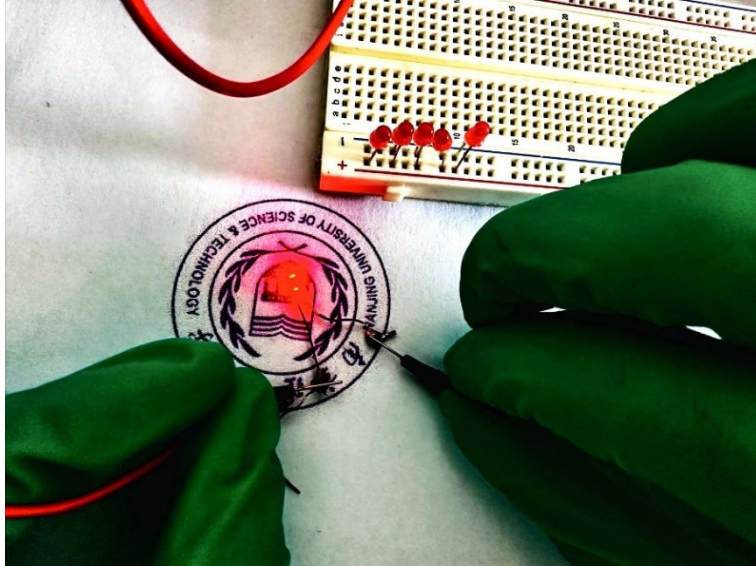
326 **Figure S13.** Comparison of power densities between this work and reported data with CH₄ as the
 327 eCO₂RR product.

328



329

330 **Figure S14.** The galvanostatic cyclability curve at a current density of 0.5 mA cm⁻² for Cu-BTC.



331

332 **Figure S15.** Digital photograph for single bulb illuminated by three series of an N-Cu-BTC
333 AZCBs.

334

335

Table S1. Comparison of FE_{CH_4} of eCO_2RR using as-prepared electrodes

Potential (V vs RHE)	Cu-BTC (CH ₄) FE%	N-Cu-BTC(CH ₄) FE%
-1.0	39	38.7
-1.25	45	49
-1.50	47	58
-1.75	50	70
-2.0	56	85
-2.25	45	96
-2.50	42	64
2.75	39	50

336

337 **Table S2.** Comparison of practical discharge capacity and Zn utilization of the Zn-CO₂ battery
 338 with the theoretical Zn capacity at different discharge currents

Current (mA)	Time (h)	Practical Capacity (mAh)	Specific Capacity (mAh g ⁻¹)	Zn Utilization (%)
0.5	0.083	0.042	0.073	0.009
1	0.083	0.083	0.145	0.017
2	0.083	0.166	0.291	0.035
3	0.083	0.250	0.437	0.053
4	0.083	0.333	0.583	0.071
5	0.083	0.416	0.729	0.088

339

Table S3: Comparison of aqueous Zn-CO₂ battery performance with reported data

Catalyst	Electrolyte	Product	OCP	Discharge voltage (V)	Power density (mW cm ⁻²)	Energy density (Wh kg ⁻¹)	Ref
N-Cu-BTC	Anolyte: 1 M KOH + 0.2 M Zn(ac) ₂ Catholyte: 1 M KOH	CH ₄	1.55	0.55	6.1 (15 mA cm ⁻²)	332.4 Wh kg ⁻¹	This work
Fe ₁ NC/S -	Anolyte: 0.8 M KOH + 0.02 M Zn(ac) ₂ Catholyte: 0.8 M KHCO ₃	CO	0.72	0.21	0.52 (2.5 mA cm ⁻²)	—	1
P-Ag/CP	Anolyte: 6 M KOH + 0.2 M Zn(ac) ₂ Catholyte: 0.8 M KHCO ₃	CO	0.9	0.18	0.37 (2.1 mA cm ⁻²)	—	2
Ni@NC	Anolyte: 6 M KOH + 0.2 M Zn(ac) ₂ Catholyte: 1 M	CH ₄	—	0.20	1.64 (8 mA cm ⁻²)	—	3

	KHCO ₃						
HPC– Co/CoPc	Anolyte: 6 M KOH + 0.2 M Zn(ac) ₂ Catholyte: 1 M KHCO ₃	CO	—	0.50	2.67 (10 mA cm ⁻²)	533	4
VO-rich SnO ₂ NS	Anolyte: 1 M KOH Catholyte: 0.1 M KHCO ₃	Forma te	—	1.00	3.67 (17 mA cm ⁻²)	550	5
Cu ₃ P/C	Anolyte: 4 M NaOH Catholyte: 0.1 M KHCO ₃	CO	1.4	0.25	2.6 (10 mA cm ⁻²)	—	6
CuO/Cu- BTC	Anolyte: 1 M KOH Catholyte: 1 M KOH	C ₂ H ₄ + CH ₄	—	—	3.4	—	7
N-Cu- MOF NS	Anolyte: 0.5 M KHCO ₃ Catholyte: 0.5 M KHCO ₃	CH ₄	—	—	2.9	—	8

Cu-BTC/Ag Hybrid	Anolyte: 6 M KOH + 0.2 M Zn(ac) ₂ Catholyte: 0.8 M KHCO ₃	CO + CH ₄	—	—	2.1	—	9
Cu-BTC-derived Cu@C	Anolyte: 1 M KOH Catholyte: 1 M KOH	CH ₄ + C ₂ H ₄	—	—	4.8	—	10
Pd/SnO ₂ @C	Anolyte: 6 M KOH + 0.02 M Zn(ac) ₂ Catholyte: 1 M KHCO ₃	Formate	1.4	1.38	4.29 (8 mA cm ⁻²)	827.3	11

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