

Supporting Information for
***p-d* hybridized Single-atom Catalysts based on**
Covalent-bond-linked Fullerene Monolayer Network for CO₂
Reduction

Manfu Li¹, Zhilin Liu¹, Guang Yang¹, Xiaoyan Ren,^{1,*} and Shunfang Li^{1,2,†}

¹Key Laboratory of Material Physics, Ministry of Education, School of Physics,
Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou 450001, China

²Institute of Quantum Materials and Physics, Henan Academy of Sciences,
Zhengzhou 450046, China

E-mails: renxyan@zzu.edu.cn; sflizzu@zzu.edu.cn

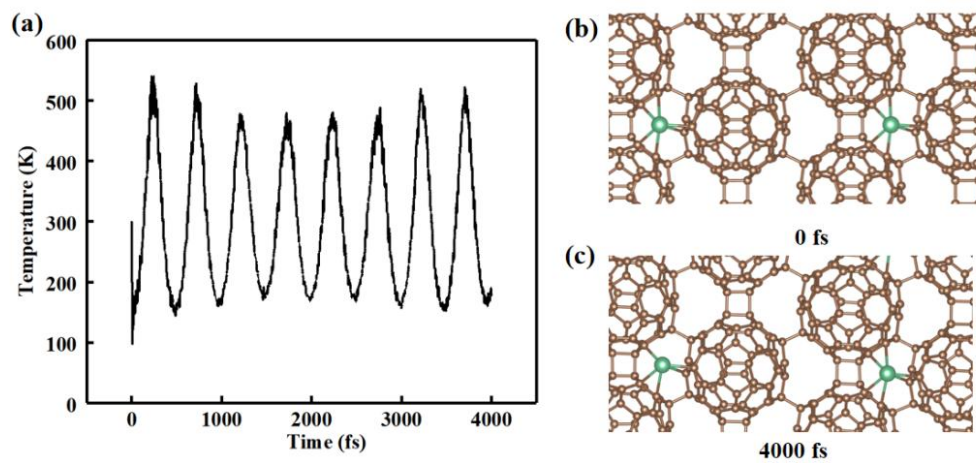
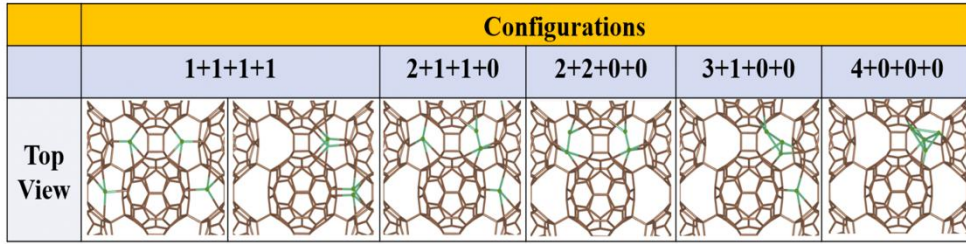
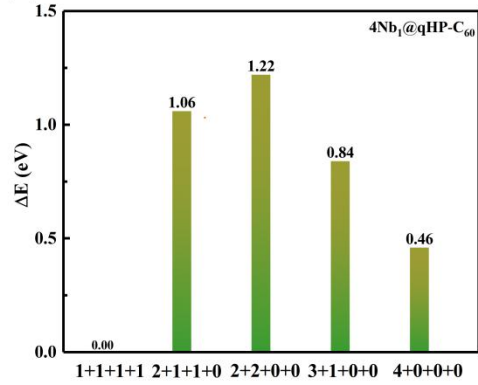


Fig. S1 Ab initio molecular dynamics (AIMD) simulations of the Nb₁@qHP-C₆₀ system at 300 K over 4 ps.

(a)



(b)



(c)

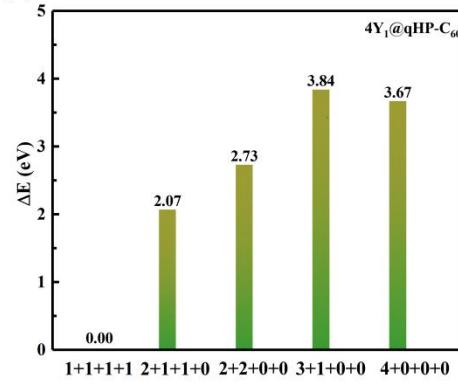


Fig. S2 (a) Optimized configurations of four transition metal atoms on the 2D qHP-C₆₀ surface; Relative energies of various configurations formed by the deposition of four Nb (b) and four Y (c) atoms on the 2D qHP-C₆₀ surface.

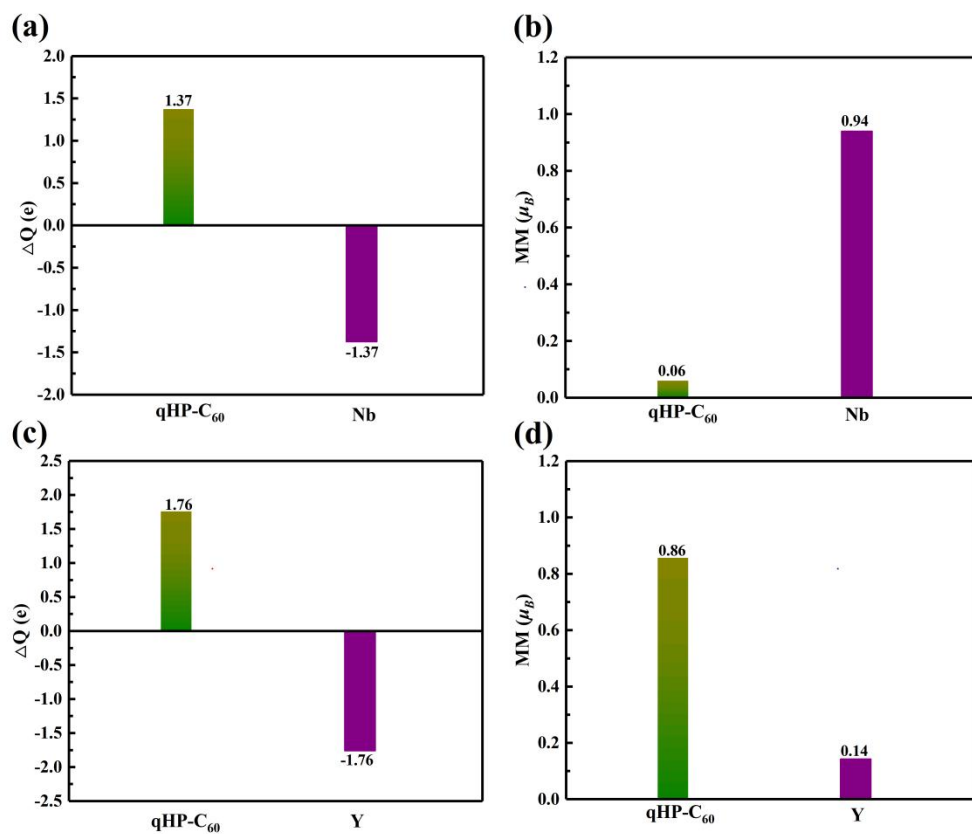


Fig. S3 Charge transfer and magnetic moment variations induced by the deposition of a single Nb or Y atom onto the 2D qHP-C₆₀ surface: (a) charge transfer and (b) magnetic moment of Nb system; While (c) and (d) represent those of Y.

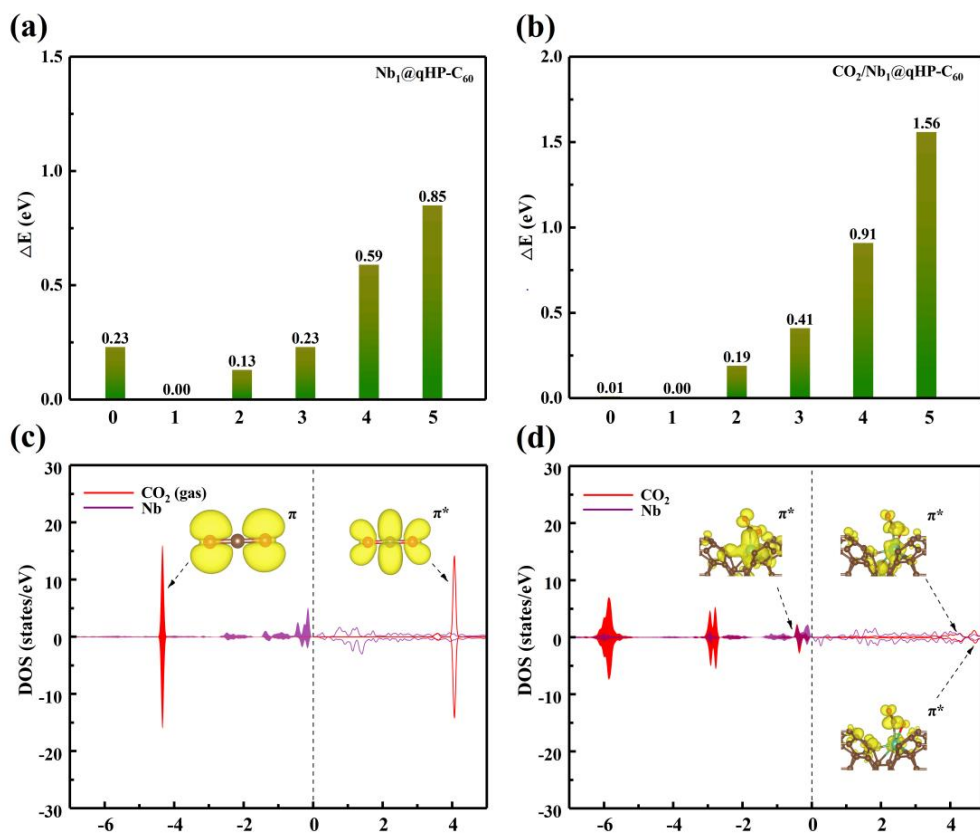


Fig. S4 (a) Relative energies of the Nb₁@qHP-C₆₀ system and (b) the CO₂/Nb₁@qHP-C₆₀ system under varying magnetic moments; Orbital charge density distributions before (c) and after (d) CO₂ adsorption.

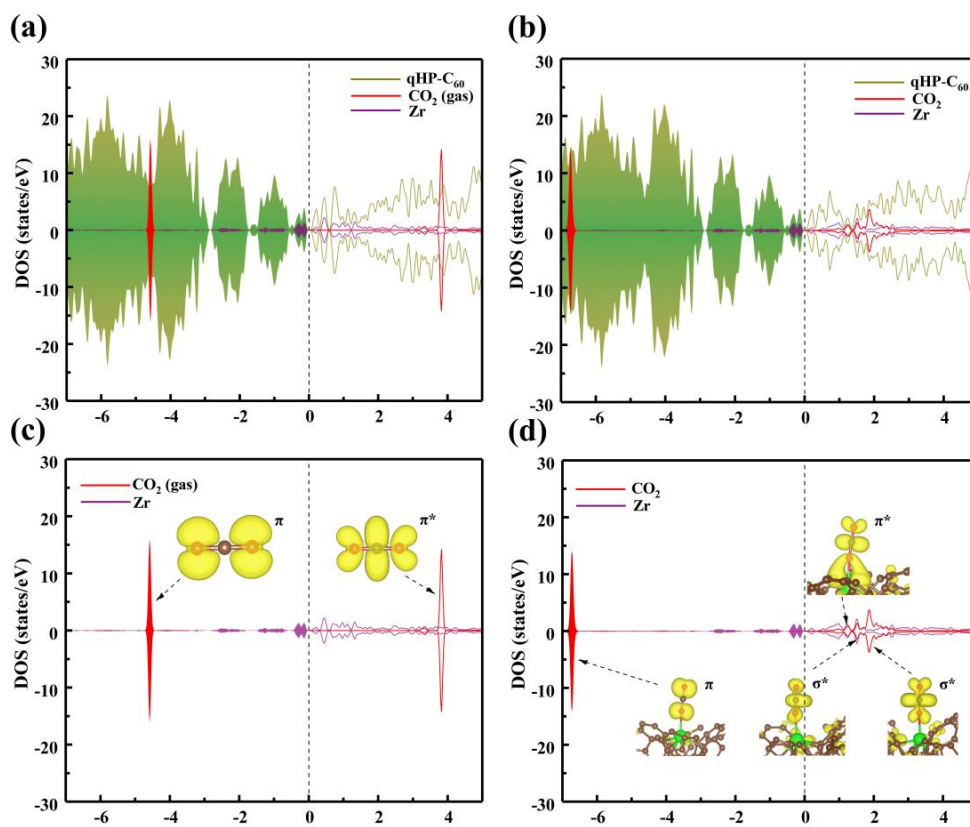


Fig. S5 In the $Zr_1@qHP-C_{60}$ system, the electronic density of states of the CO_2 molecule before (a) and after (b) adsorption, as well as the orbital charge density distributions before (c) and after (d) adsorption.

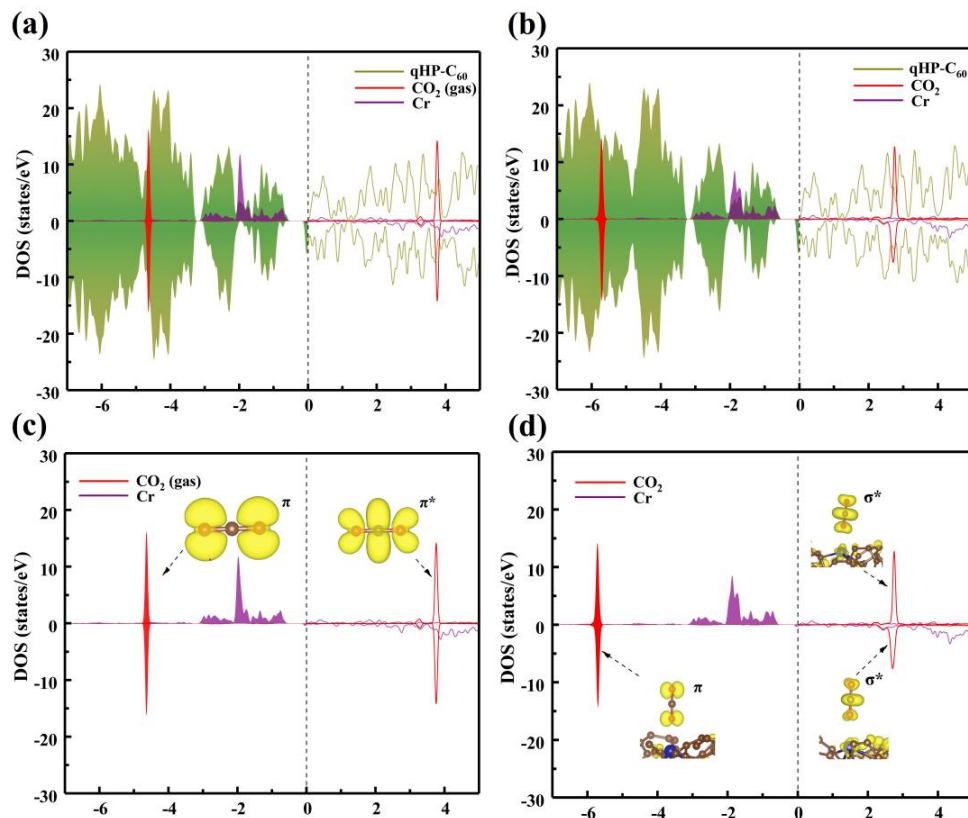


Fig. S6 In the $\text{Cr}_1@q\text{HP-C}_{60}$ system, the electronic density of states of the CO_2 molecule before (a) and after (b) adsorption, as well as the orbital charge density distributions before (c) and after (d) adsorption.

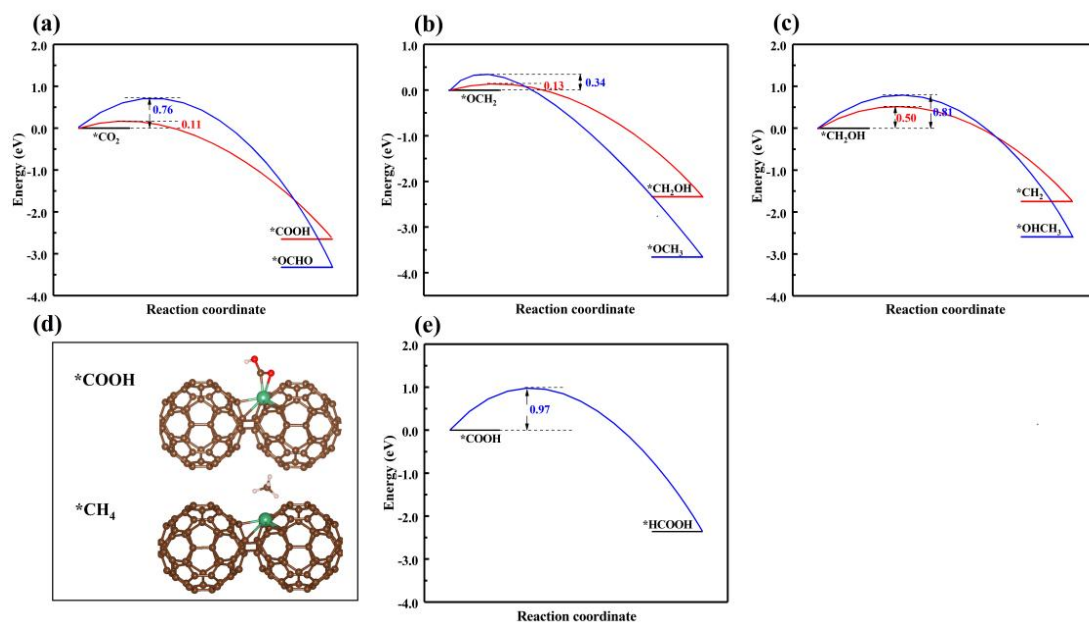


Fig. S7 The protonation barriers of (a) *CO_2 , (b) *OCH_2 , (c) *CH_2OH , (e) *COOH ; (d) The configurations of *COOH and *CH_4 .

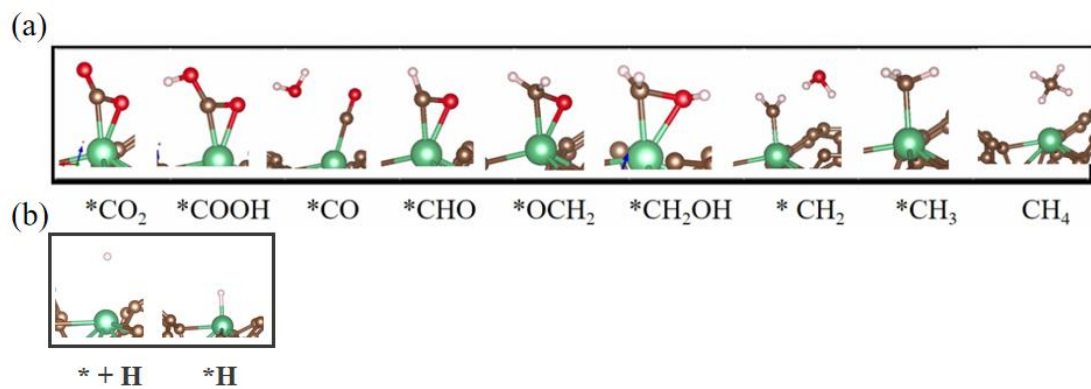


Fig. S8: Optimized geometries of all critical intermediates along the most favorable reaction route for (a) CO₂RR and (b) HER on Nb₁@qHP-C₆₀.

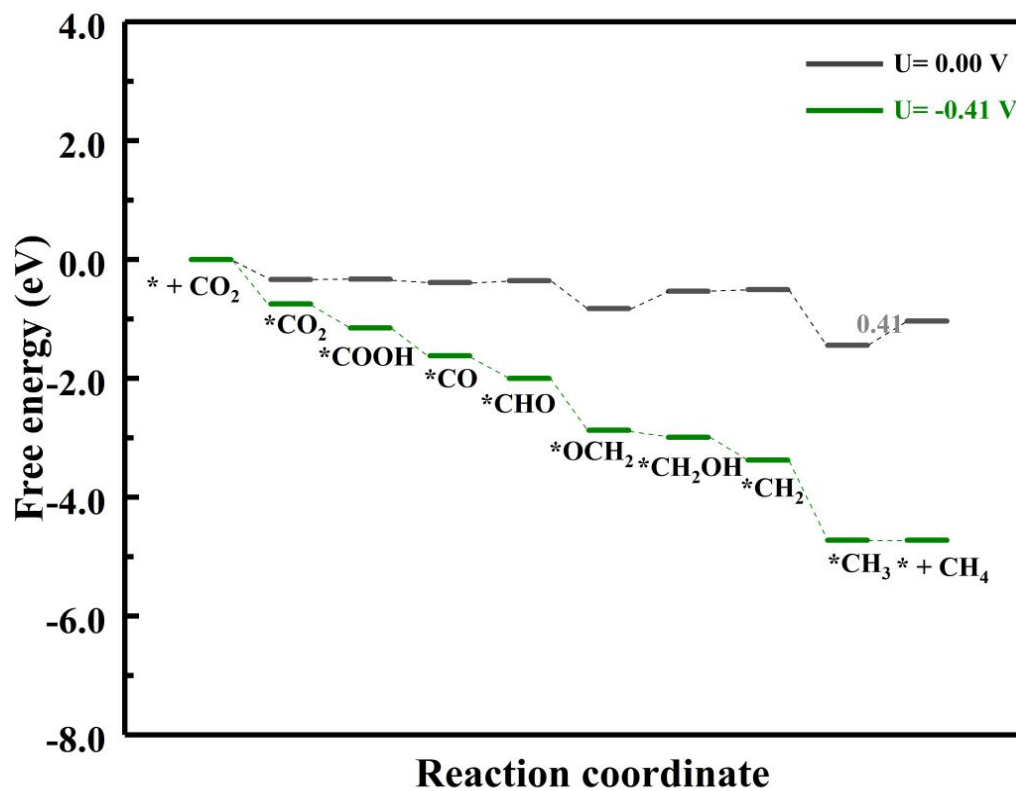


Fig. S9 The Gibbs free energy of the optimal reaction pathway for CO₂RR on the Nb₁@qHP-C₆₀ system at potentials of 0 V and -0.41 V.

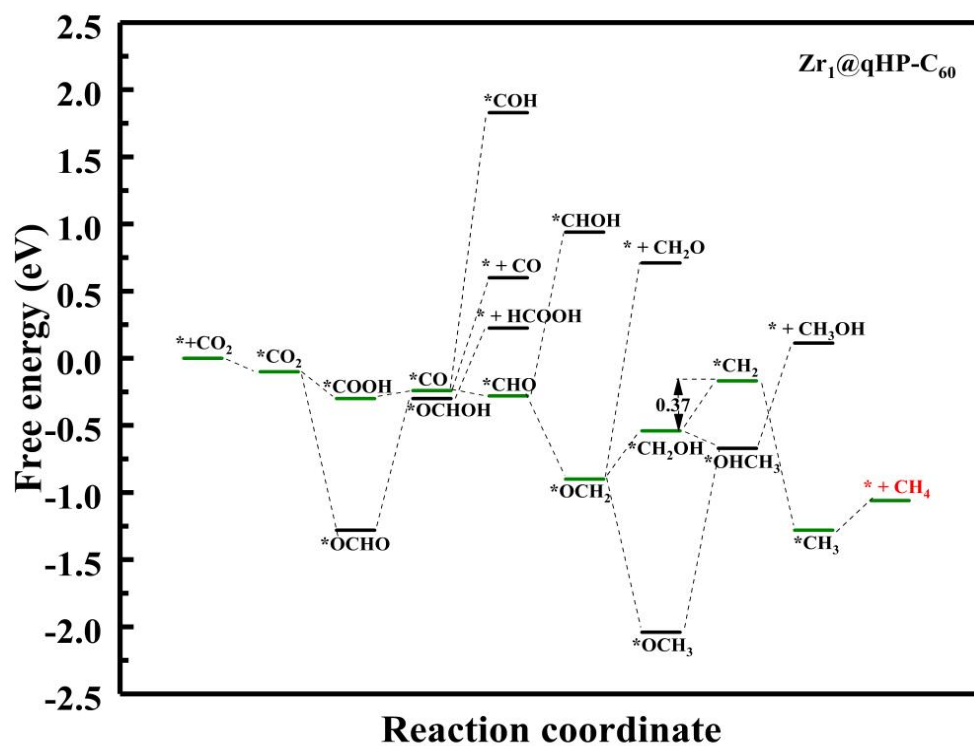


Fig. S10 The lowest energy pathways for CO₂RR to various products on the Zr₁@qHP-C₆₀ system (in the absence of an applied potential).

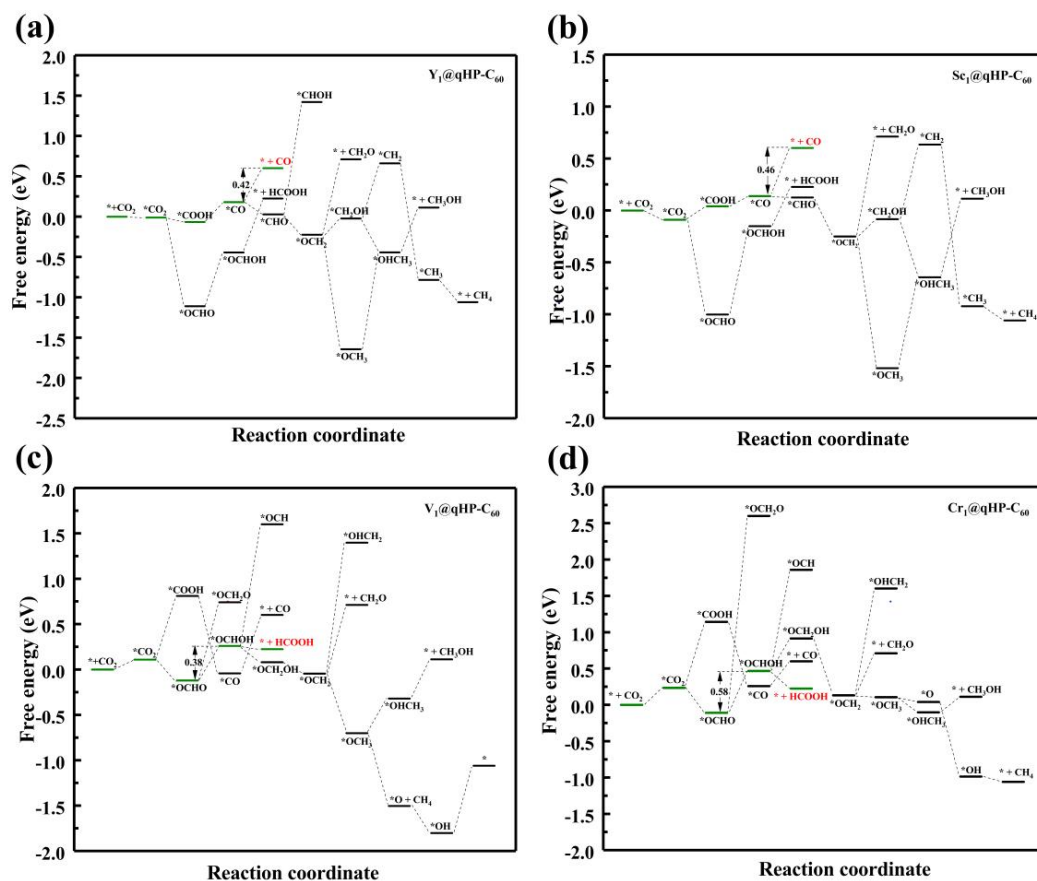


Fig. S11 The lowest energy pathways for CO_2RR to various products on the $TM_1@qHP-C_{60}$ systems ($TM = Y, Sc, V, Cr$) in the absence of an applied potential are as follows: (a) $Y_1@qHP-C_{60}$; (b) $Sc_1@qHP-C_{60}$; (c) $V_1@qHP-C_{60}$; (d) $Cr_1@qHP-C_{60}$.

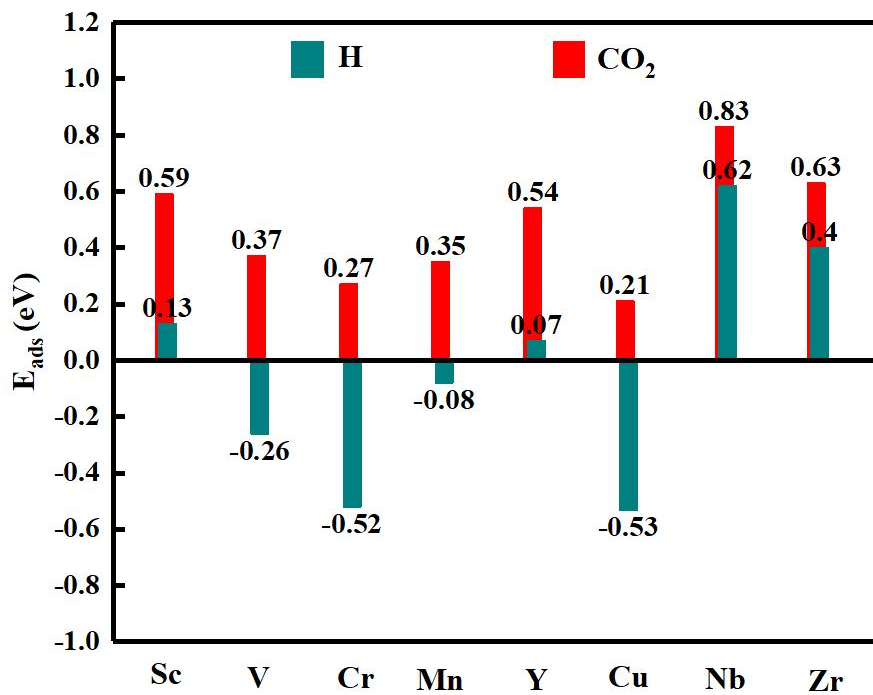


Fig. S12 Calculated adsorption energy (E_{ads}) for both H and CO₂ on TM₁@qHP-C₆₀ (TM = Sc, V, Cr, Mn, Y, Cu, Nb, and Zr).

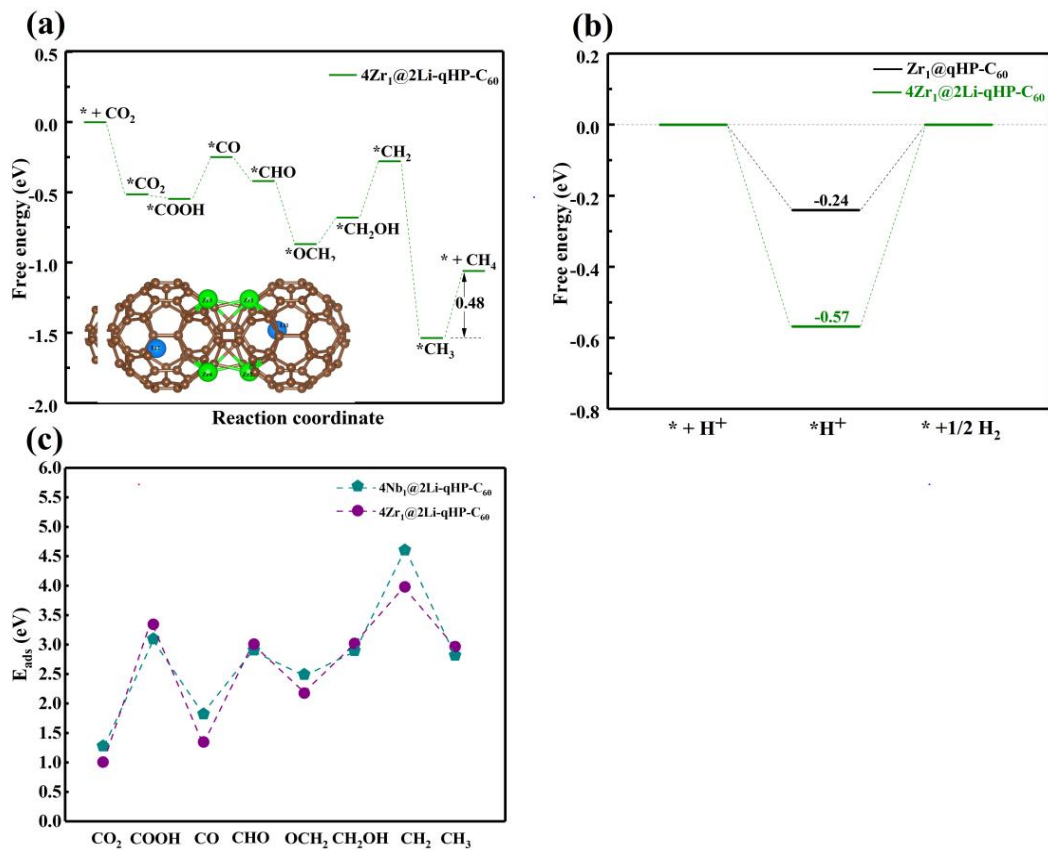


Fig. S13 (a) Gibbs free energy of the CH_4 formation pathway on the $4\text{Zr}_1@2\text{Li-qHP-C}_{60}$ system; (b) Gibbs free energy of HER for $\text{Zr}_1@q\text{HP-C}_{60}$ and $4\text{Zr}_1@2\text{Li-qHP-C}_{60}$ systems; (c) Adsorption energies of intermediates in the CH_4 pathway on $4\text{Nb}_1@2\text{Li-qHP-C}_{60}$ and $4\text{Zr}_1@2\text{Li-qHP-C}_{60}$ systems.

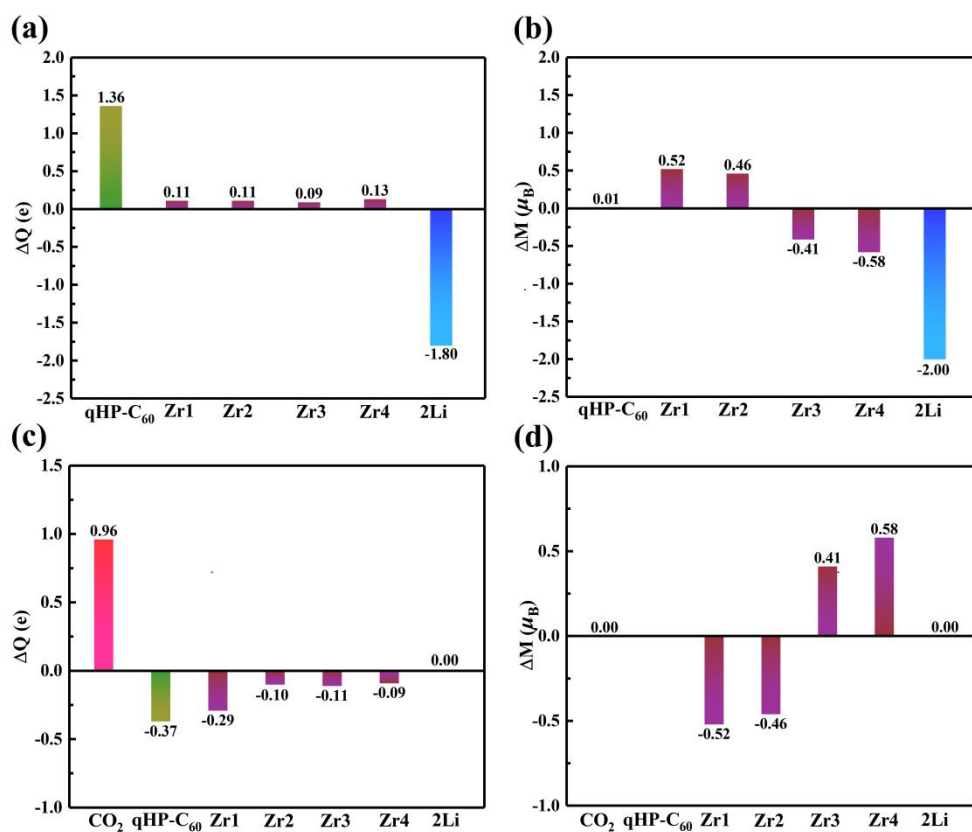


Fig. S14 Charge (a) and magnetic moment (b) variations of each component upon embedding two Li atoms into the 4Zr₁@qHP-C₆₀ system; Charge (c) and magnetic moment (d) variations of each component during CO₂ adsorption on the 4Zr₁@2Li-qHP-C₆₀ system.

Table S1 The structural parameters of CO₂ after adsorption on TM₁@qHP-C₆₀ (TM = Nb, Zr, Cr) include the O-C-O bond angle, the C-O bond length, the TM-CO₂ distance, and the corresponding charge transfer.

	$\angle \text{O-C-O} (^{\circ})$	O ₁ -C (Å)	O ₂ -C (Å)	(C)O ₂ -TM (Å)	ΔQ (e)
CO ₂ (gas)	180.00	1.18	1.18	/	
Nb ₁ @qHP-C ₆₀	135.08	1.22	1.33	(2.13) 2.10	0.76
Zr ₁ @qHP-C ₆₀	179.43	1.17	1.19	2.40	-0.01
Cr ₁ @qHP-C ₆₀	179.81	1.18	1.18	2.53	0.02

Table S2 Calculated spin moment variation contributed from qHP-C₆₀ substrate ($\Delta M_{\text{qHP-C60}}$) and TM single atom (ΔM_{TM}) and CO₂ species (ΔM_{CO2}) upon CO₂ adsorption. The adsorption energies (E_{ads}) are also provided.

TM ₁ /qHP-C ₆₀	ΔM_{TM} (μ_{B})	ΔM_{CO2} (μ_{B})	$\Delta M_{\text{qHP-C60}}$ (μ_{B})	$E_{\text{ads}}(\text{CO}_2)(\text{eV})$
Nb	-0.52	0	+0.52	0.83
Zr	-0.08	-0.01	0.09	0.63
Sc	-0.06	0	-0.06	0.59
Y	-0.02	0	0.02	0.54
V	-0.05	0.06	-0.01	0.37
Cr	-0.05	0.05	0.00	0.27

Table S3 Comparison of CO₂RR performance between our optimal single-atom catalysts (SACs) and representative SACs reported in previous literature.

catalytic system	product	ΔG (eV)	source
Fe-TCSAC	CO	0.57	<i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> 2025 , 147, 20318-20328
CuZn-SAs/NC	CH ₄	0.76	<i>Chem. Eng. J.</i> 2023 , 471, 144618
Zr-MOF-In	HCOOH	0.49	<i>Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> 2025 , 137, e202511132
Ag ₁ @NCNT Ag ₁ -AgAC@NCNT	CO	1	<i>Adv. Energy Mater.</i> 2024 , 14, 2400143
Ni ₃ -N-C	CO	0.45	<i>Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> 2026 , 65, e18107