

24 MAI 2022 - PARIS

# DÉCARBONER LE MIX GAZIER: COMMENT AMPLIFIER LE MOUVEMENT ?

**Les Rencontres des Clubs Pyrogazéification et Power-to-gas**

# Réduction électrocatalytique du CO<sub>2</sub>

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# Catalytic recycling of CO<sub>2</sub> [*artificial photosynthesis*]

a few remarks ...

mitigation of CO<sub>2</sub> anthropogenic emissions ?

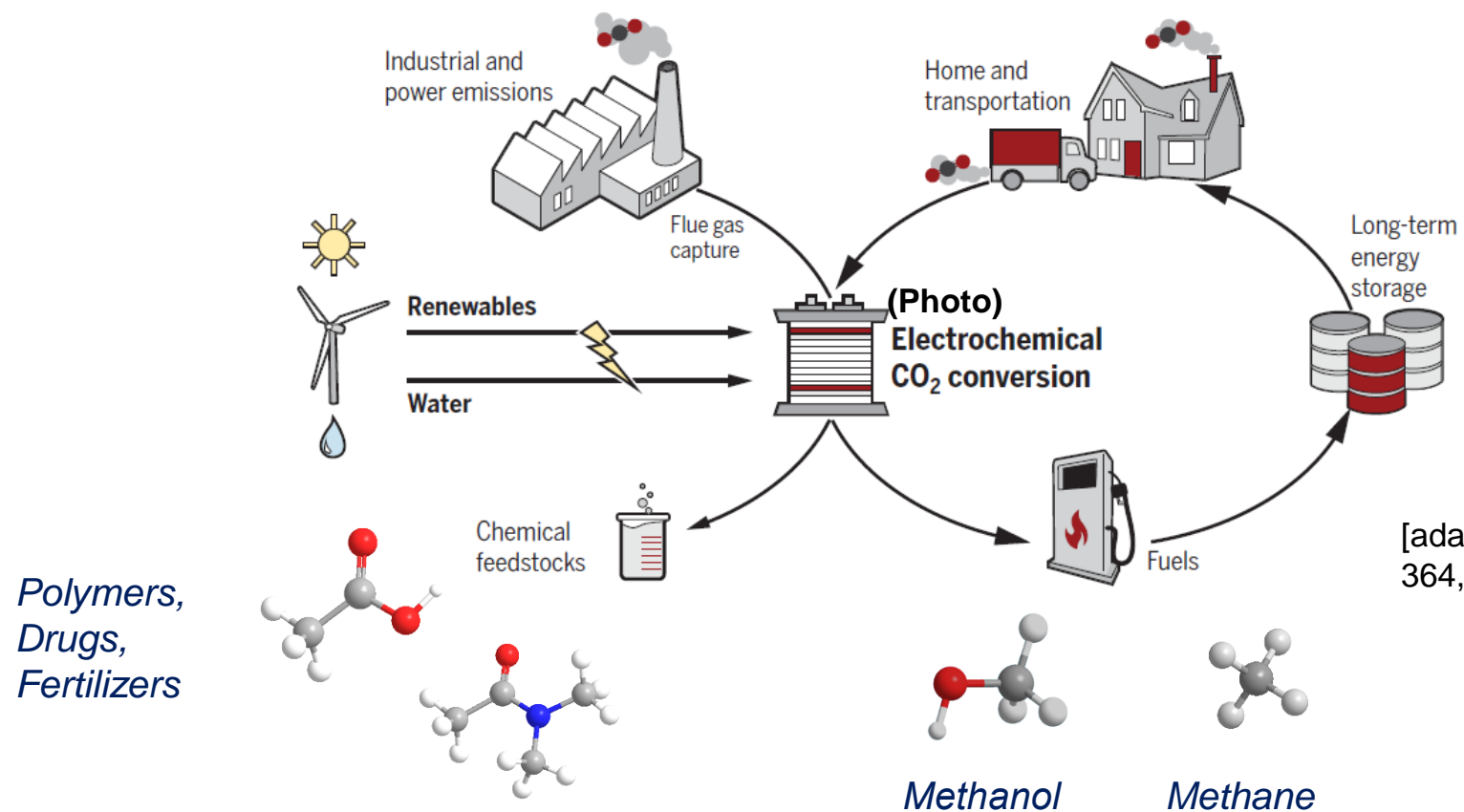
(**NO**, *because of the order of magnitude and time scale ...*)

storing renewable energies into chemical bonds for producing commodity chemicals, fuels, pharmaceuticals

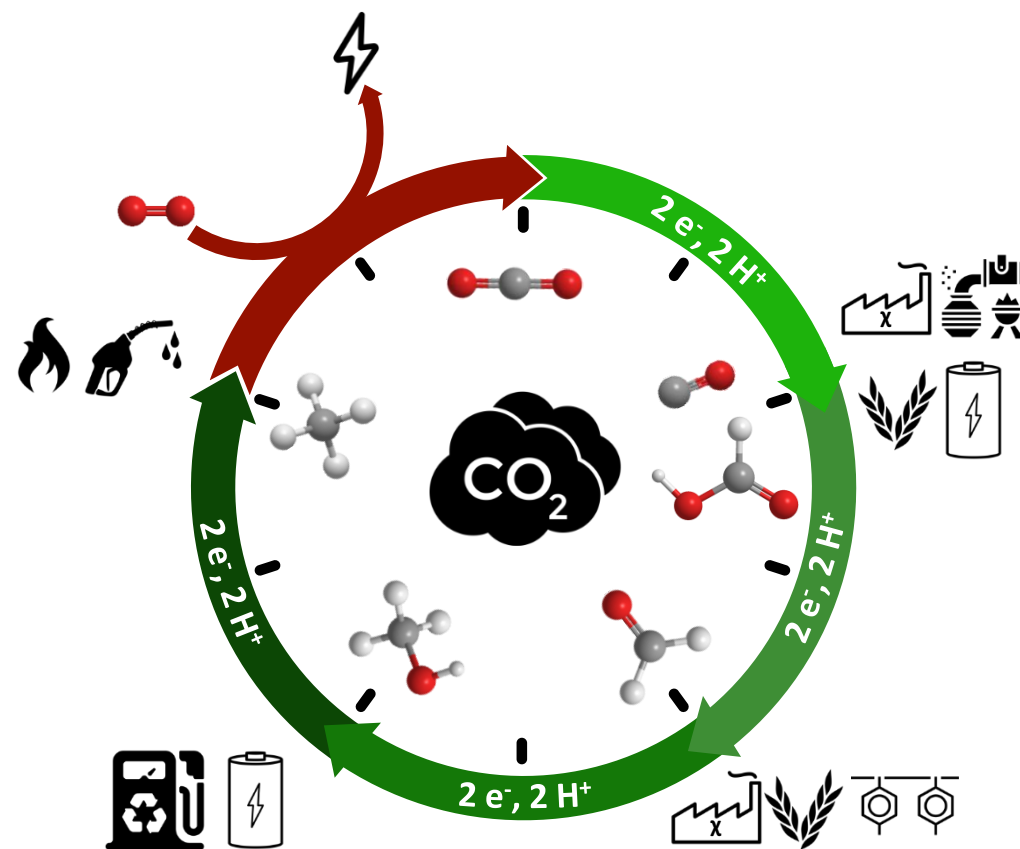
electrifying our activities (industry, transportation, heating ...)

using CO<sub>2</sub> as a renewable feedstock for a circular economy

# Renewably powered (photo)electrosynthesis will displace petrochemical processes : a Revolution, not an Evolution



## The CO<sub>2</sub> clock



*Catalysis is mandatory.*

*What operating constraints ?*

- *earth abundant metals*
- *ambient T and P*
- *water as solvent*

# Molecular catalysis of the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>

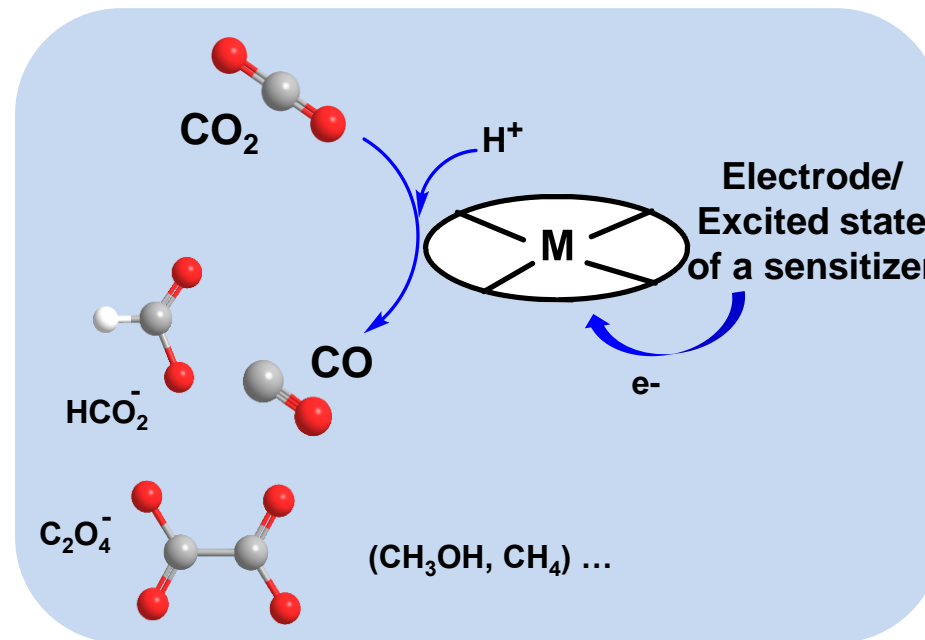
## Electrocatalysis

Noble metals (Au, Ag, Pd), Cu, Sn  
as catalytic electrodes

## Electrochemical (or light driven electrochemical) Molecular Catalysis

Low oxidation states of transition  
metal complexes in solution

**Hybrid systems** combining  
conductive (semi-conductive) materials  
and molecular catalysts

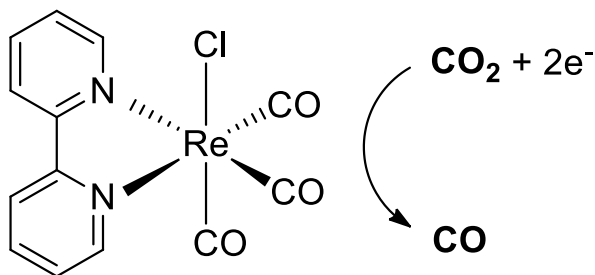


*Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2013**, 42, 2423

*ACS Catalysis* **2017**, 7, 70

*Chem. Soc. Rev.* **2020**, 49, 5772

# Catalysis of the electrochemical reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> to CO – *What metals ?*



Lehn and Meyer reported that  $\text{Re}(\text{bipy})(\text{CO})_3\text{Cl}$  catalyzed the reduction of **CO<sub>2</sub> to CO** with **98%** current efficiency in **DMF:H<sub>2</sub>O 90:10** solutions @ **glassy carbon** electrode

- **Rhenium (Re)** : 3 000 €/kg , 53 t/yr  
(Chile, USA, Kazakhstan, Poland)
- **Ruthenium (Ru)** : 2 400 €/kg , 12 t/yr  
(South Africa, Russia)
- **Cobalt (Co)** : 28 €/kg , 55 10<sup>3</sup> t/yr  
(RDC, Zambia, Cameroun, Finland)
- **Tin (Sn)** : 24 €/kg , 0.37 Mt/yr  
(Indonesia, China, Peru)
- **Nickel (Ni)** : 16 €/kg , 1.3 Mt/yr  
(Russia, Australia, Canada, France)
- **Copper (Cu)** : 10 €/kg , 4.5 Mt/yr  
(Chile, Peru, China)
- **Manganese (Mn)** : 1.8 €/kg , 55 Mt/yr  
(China, South Africa, Australia)
- **Iron (Fe)** : 0.16 €/kg , 2400 Mt/yr  
(China, Australia, Brazil, India)



Towards the use of **cheap, non toxic,**  
and **abundant** transition metals

# Molecular catalysis of the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>

## A few constraints

- use Earth 'abundant' metals [Fe, Co\*]
- work in mild conditions (*T* and *P*)
- water is the solvent

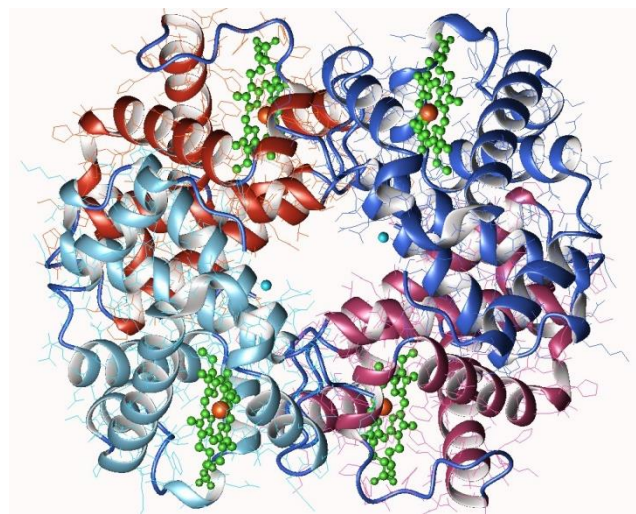
*\*Ag, Au and other noble metals are **not** abundant metals...  
Cu, Co, Ni, Mo, Zn, Sn, Bi are not either*

*Chem. Soc. Rev. **2013**, 42, 2423*

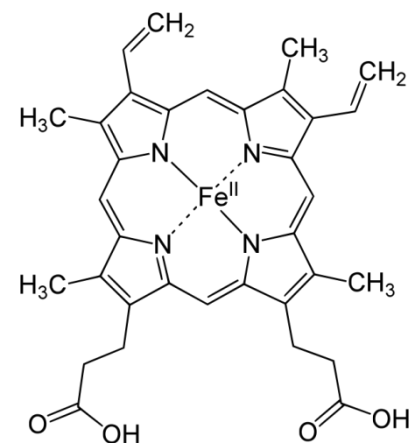
*ACS Catalysis **2017**, 7, 70*

*Chem. Soc. Rev. **2020**, 49, 5772*

## bio-inspired Fe porphyrins as CO<sub>2</sub> catalysts



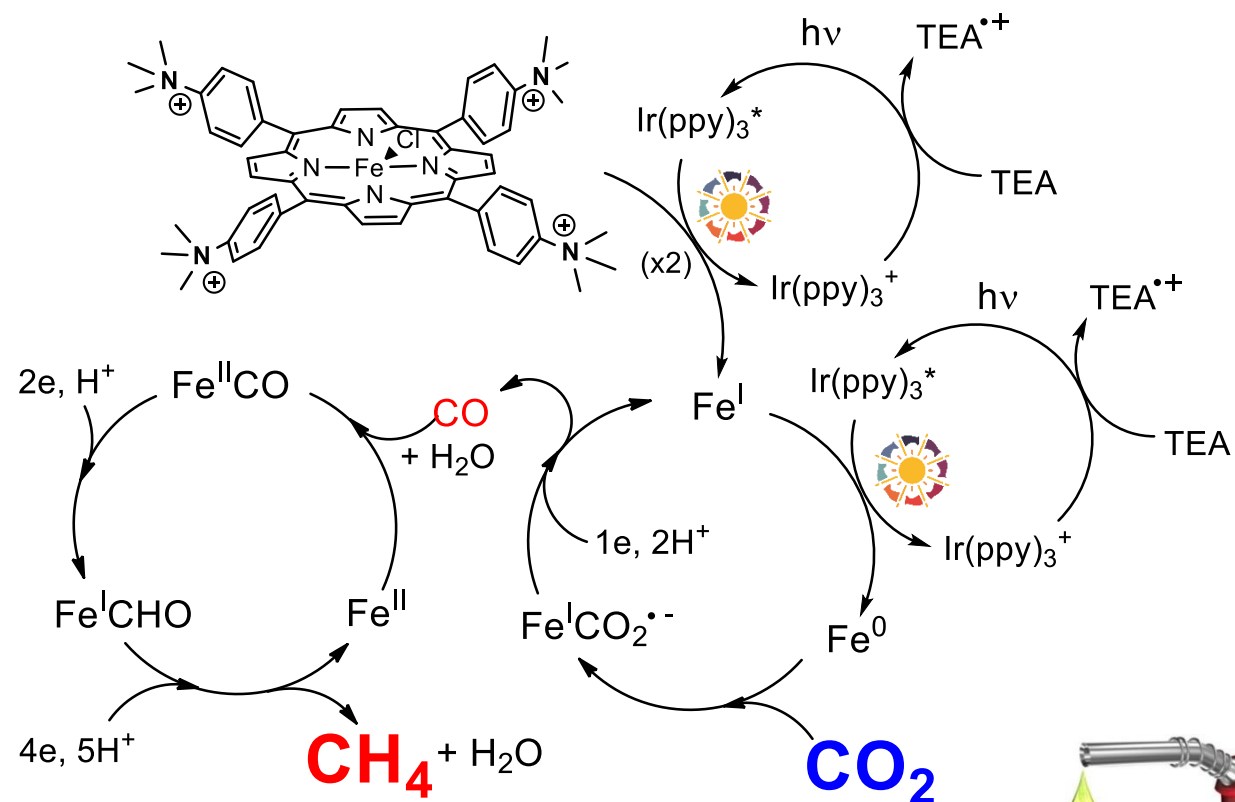
*hemoglobin*





Nature, Juillet 2017

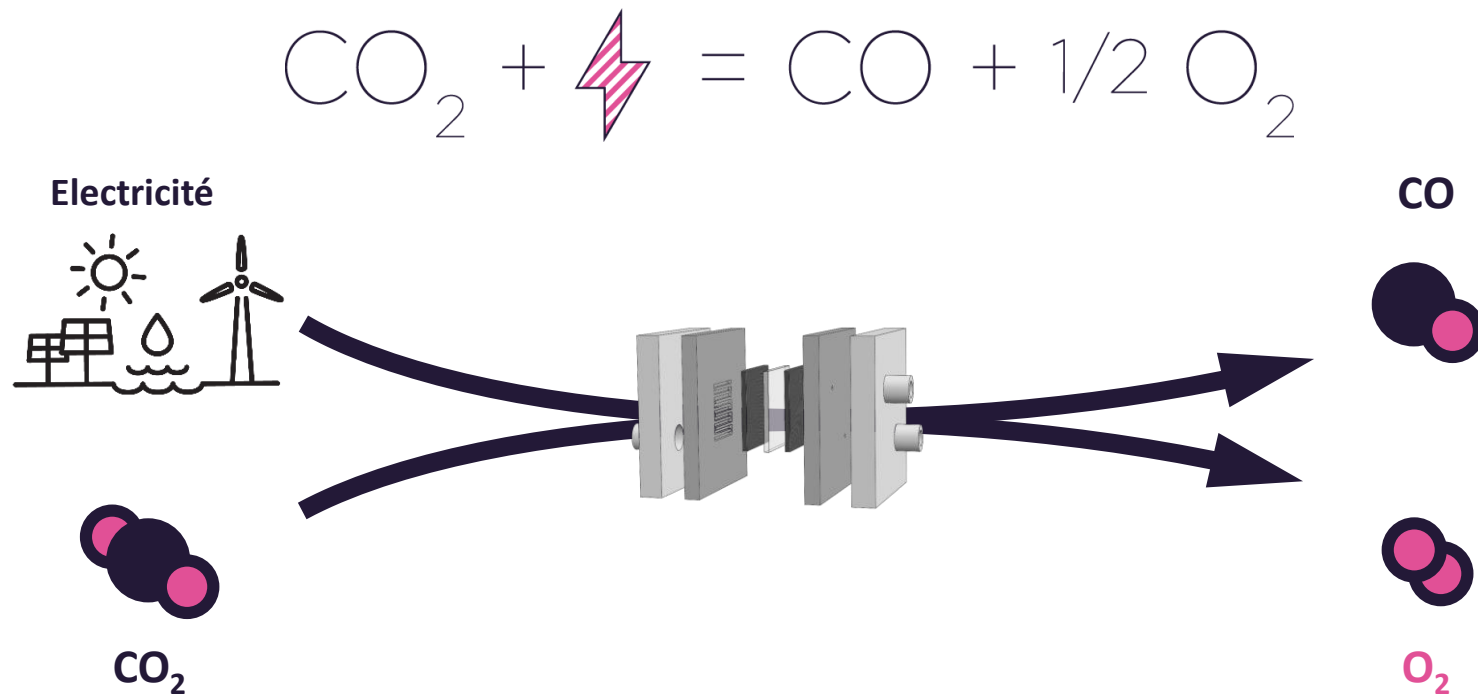
Transformation du  $\text{CO}_2$  en méthane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) à l'aide de lumière solaire et d'une molécule à base de fer (métal le + abondant sur Terre)



Génération d'un « carburant solaire »

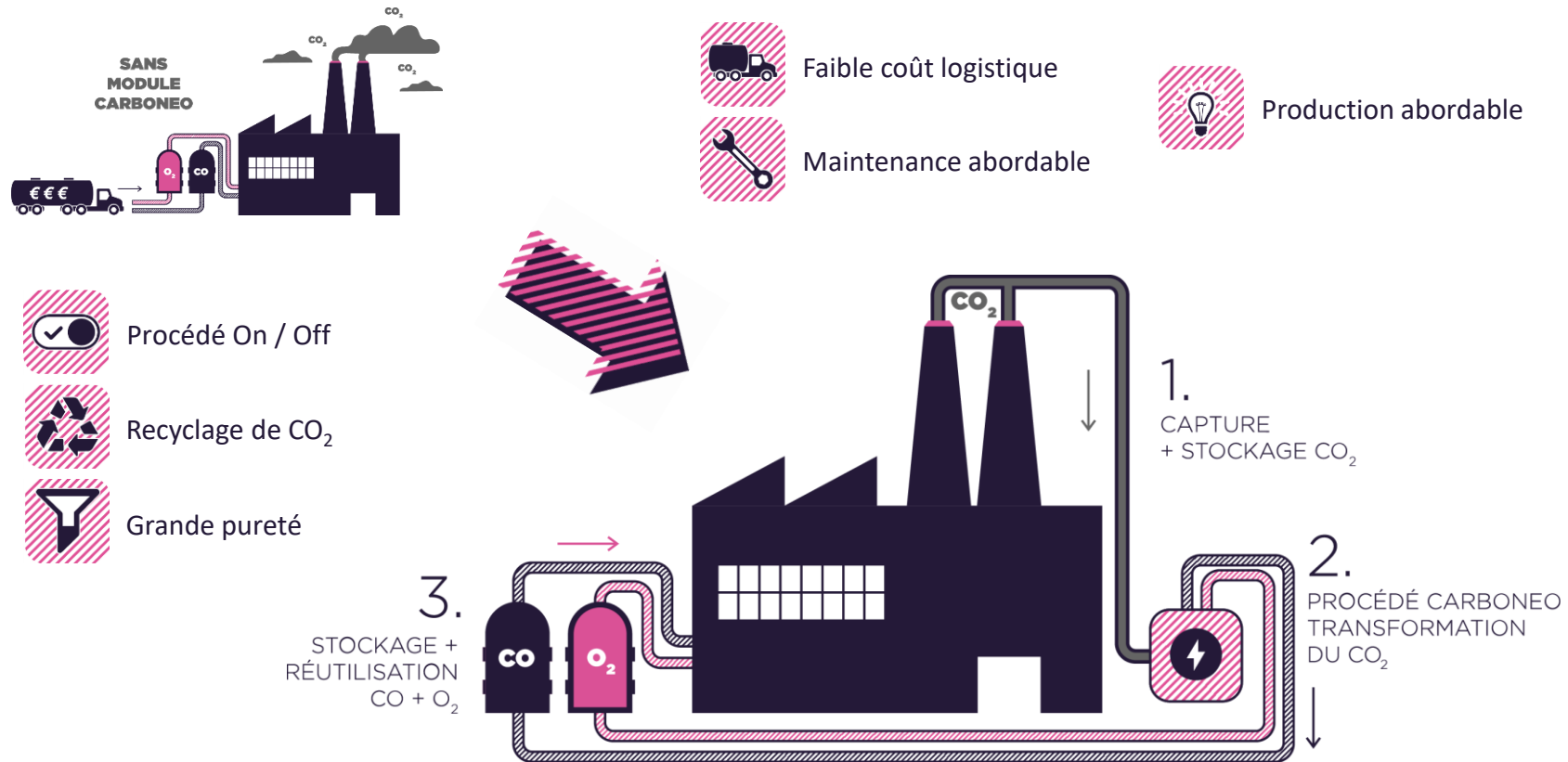


# Les électrolyseurs à CO<sub>2</sub>



# Etablir un cycle local du carbone

## Une empreinte carbone fortement réduite



# Quelques ordres de grandeur

**Transformer 1 kg<sub>CO2</sub>** avec une sélectivité de **90 %**

Demande **7 kWh** (1,4 kAh – 5 V)

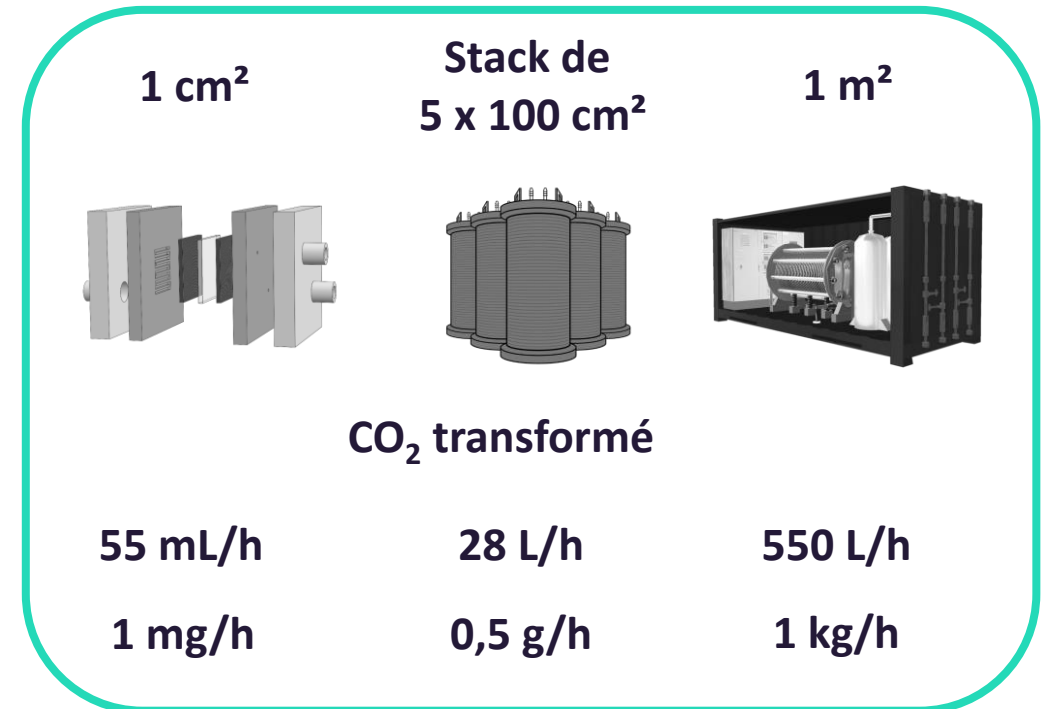
Produisant **0.63 kg<sub>CO</sub>** & **0.36 kg<sub>O2</sub>**

**Transformer 1 kg<sub>CO2</sub>** avec une sélectivité de **90 %**

Demande **27 kWh** (5,4 kAh – 5 V)

Produisant **0.41 kg<sub>CH4</sub>** & **0.72 kg<sub>O2</sub>**

Gaz	Masse molaire g/mol	Densité kg/m <sup>3</sup>
CO <sub>2</sub>	44	1,808
CO	28	1,145
O <sub>2</sub>	32	1,309
CH <sub>4</sub>	18	0,65

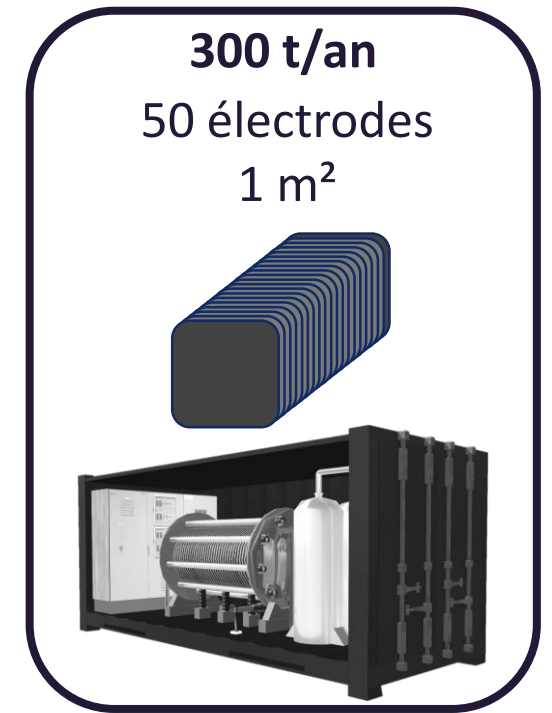
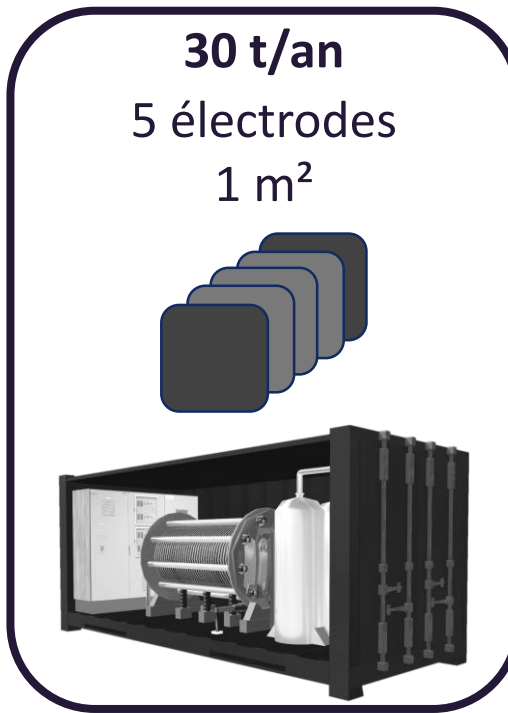


C = 96 485 C/mol

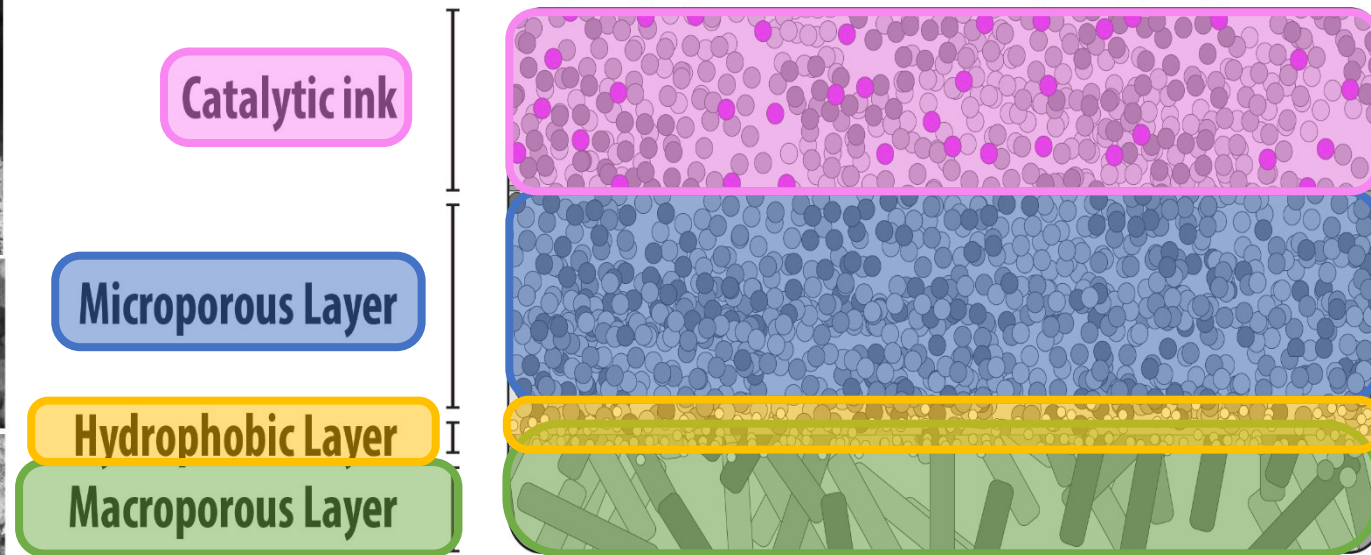
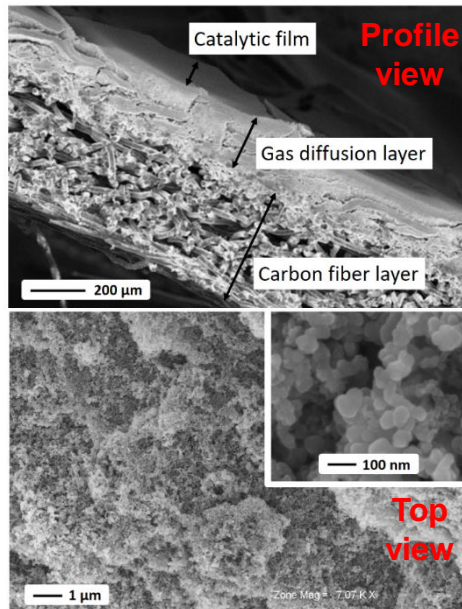
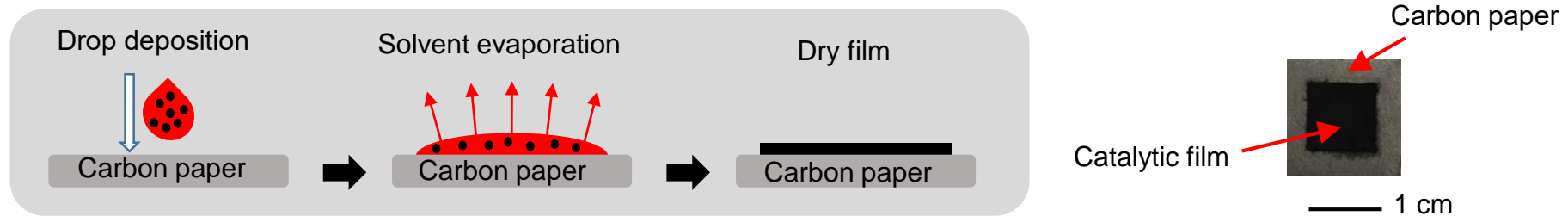
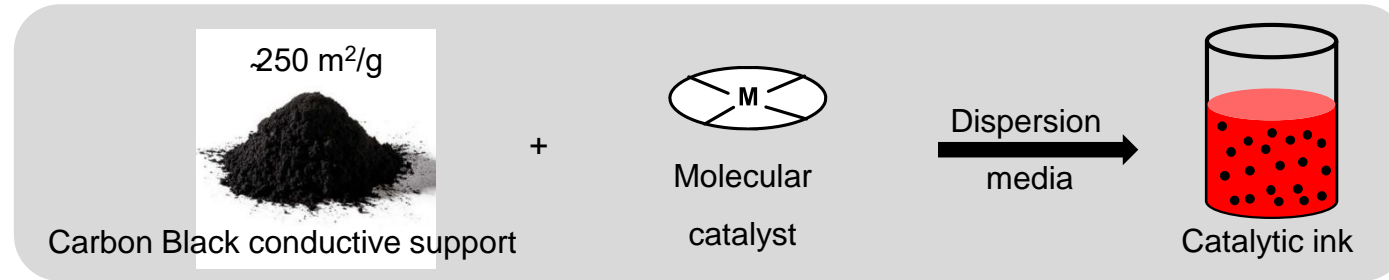
2 e<sup>-</sup> par CO

8 e<sup>-</sup> par CH<sub>4</sub>

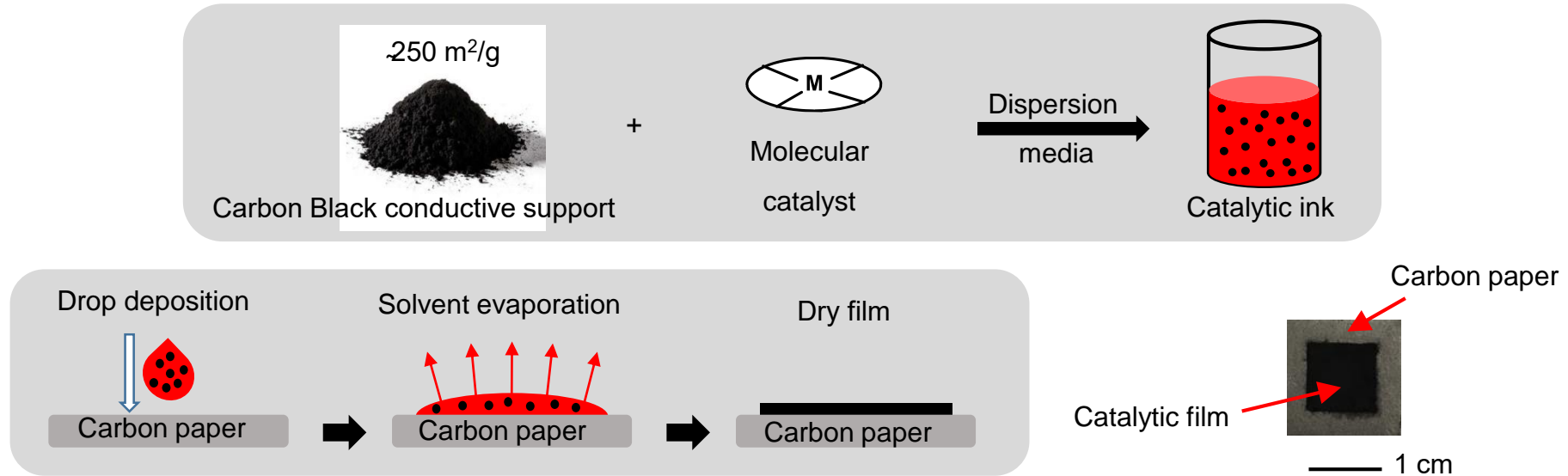
## Quelques ordres de grandeur (suite)



# Molecular electrocatalysts can mediate fast, selective CO<sub>2</sub> reduction to CO in a flow cell

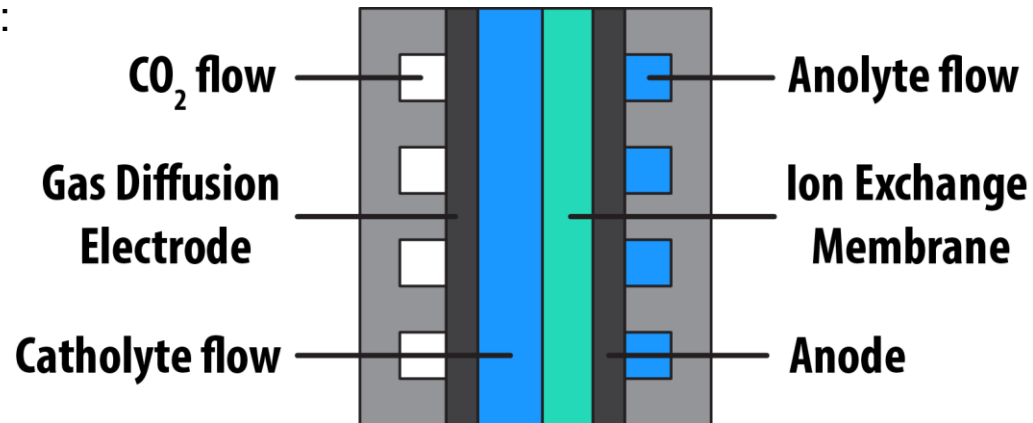


# Molecular electrocatalysts can mediate fast, selective CO<sub>2</sub> reduction to CO in a flow cell



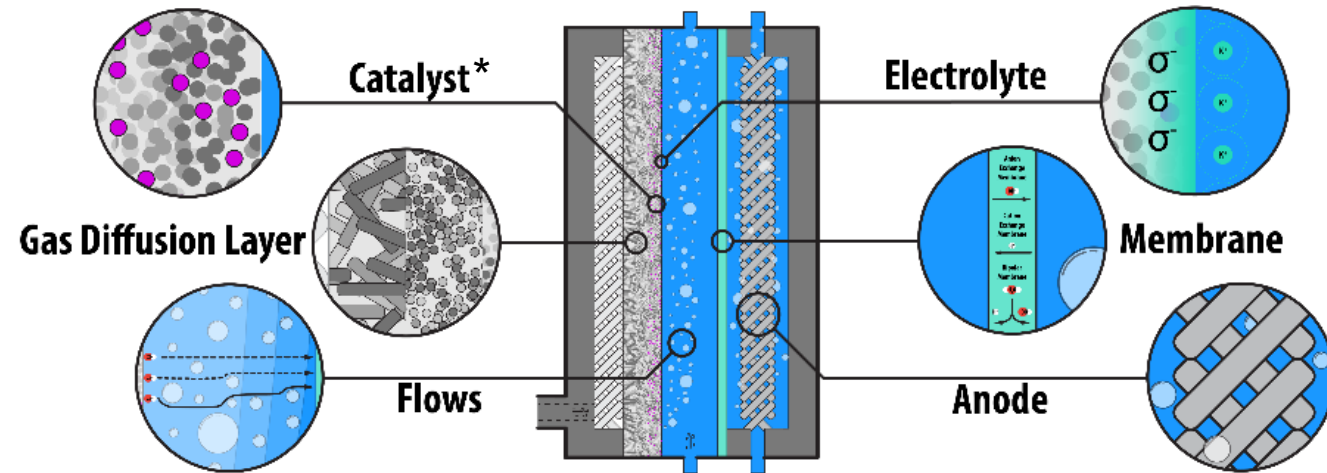
Flow cell optimisation comprises:

- CO<sub>2</sub> (flow, humidity)
- GDL
- Catalyst
- Electrolyte (cation, flow, temperature)
- Membrane



## the CO<sub>2</sub> electrolyzer

Ultra-efficient CO<sub>2</sub> to CO conversion :  $j_{\text{CO}} > 450 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$  in a flow cell @ pH 7



*\*metal (Fe, Co) complex  
deposited at carbon paper*

*Science* **2012**, 338, 90  
*Science* **2019**, 365, 367-369  
*Nature Commun.* **2019**, 10:3602  
6 patents – 1 start-up (*Carboneo*)

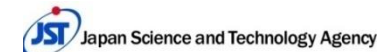
next step, the CO<sub>2</sub> electrolyzer to CH<sub>4</sub>

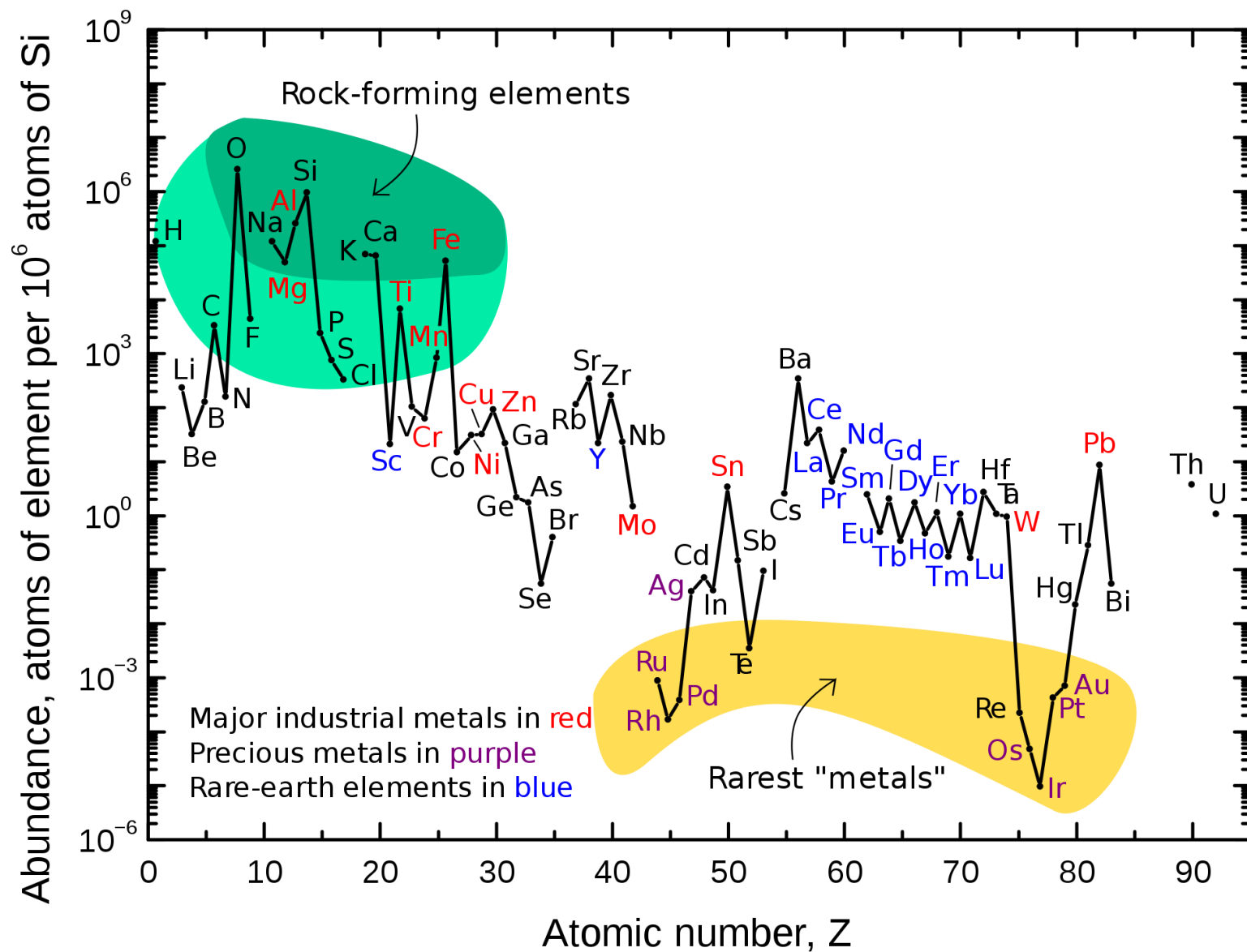


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# Global scale energy demand

« Global energy demand is projected to increase by 57% in 26 years, from 14.9 terawatt (TW) in 2004 to 23.4 TW in 2030. »

« Towards these ends, numerous technologies will have valuable application within the local context. However, at the global scale, sunlight is one of the few energy sources that can meet projected human energy demands in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. Solar energy reaches the surface of the earth at a rate of 120 000 TW, far exceeding the global rate of human energy consumption. »

Use solar energy ?  
So we need being able to store it !  
Molecules are ideal candidates to do so  
**... in particular CO<sub>2</sub>**

# Renewable (Solar) fuels before the renewable (solar) fuels ...

## SCIENCE

### THE PHOTOCHEMISTRY OF THE FUTURE<sup>1</sup>

MODERN civilization is the daughter of coal, for this offers to mankind the solar energy in its most concentrated form; that is, in a form in which it has been accumulated in a long series of centuries. Modern man uses it with increasing eagerness and thoughtless prodigality for the conquest of the world and, like the mythical gold of the Rhine, coal is to-day the greatest source of energy and wealth.

The earth still holds enormous quantities of it, but coal is not inexhaustible. The problem of the future begins to interest us, and a proof of this may be seen in the fact that the subject was treated last year almost at the same time by Sir William Ramsay before the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Portsmouth and by Professor Carl Engler before the Versammlung deutscher Naturforscher und Aerzte at Karlsruhe. According to the calculations of Professor Engler Europe possesses to-day about 700 billion tons of coal and America about as much; to this must be added the coal of the unknown parts of Asia. The supply is enormous but, with increasing consumption, the mining of coal becomes more expensive on account of the greater depth to which it is necessary to go. It must therefore be remembered that in some regions the deposits of coal may become practically useless long before their exhaustion.

Is fossil solar energy the only one that may be used in modern life and civilization? That is the question.

Even making allowances for the absorption of heat on the part of the atmosphere and for other circumstances, we see that the solar energy that reaches a small tropical country—say of the size of Latium—is equal annually to the energy produced by the entire amount of coal mined in the world! The desert of Sahara with its six million square kilometers receives daily solar energy equivalent to six billion tons of coal!

(...)

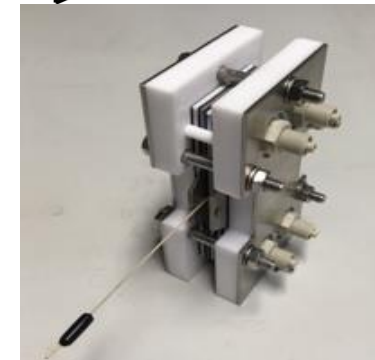
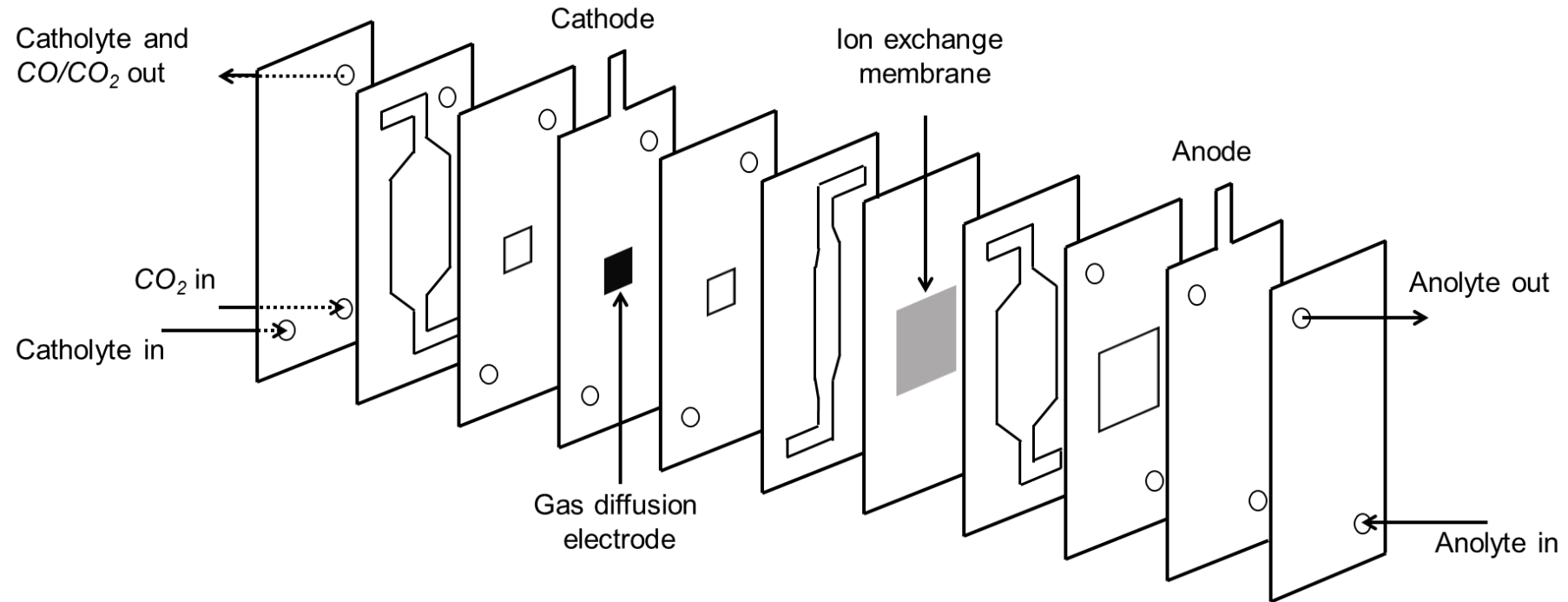
With convenient modifications could not this now actually be done on the tropical highlands? Yet the true solution consists in utilizing the radiations that pass through the entire atmosphere and reach the surface of the earth in large amounts. That a way of accomplishing this exists is proved by the plants themselves. By using suitable catalyzers, it should be possible to transform the mixture of water and carbon dioxide into oxygen and methane, or to cause other endo-energetic processes. The desert regions of the tropics, where the conditions of the soil and of the climate make it impossible to grow any ordinary crops, would be made to utilize the solar energy which they receive in so large a measure all the year, that the energy derived from them would be equal to that of billions of tons of coal.

Besides this process, which would give new value to the waste products of combustion, several others are known, which are caused by ultraviolet radiations and which might eventually take place under the influence of ordinary radiations, provided suitable sensitizers were discovered.

By using suitable catalyzers, it should be possible to transform the mixture of water and carbon dioxide into oxygen and methane



# Molecular electrocatalysts can mediate fast, selective CO<sub>2</sub> reduction to CO in a flow cell



Micro Flow Cell® electrolyzer  
(ElectroCell, Denmark)