



**Fig. S1** Metabolic profiles of the H<sub>2</sub>-enrichments with H<sub>2</sub> gas as the sole electron donor. The amount of each metabolite was normalized to electron equivalents in the unit of mmol e<sup>-</sup> per liter of culture medium. Data are presented as the means of three independent cultures, and error bars represent standard deviations.

**Table S1.** The bacterial phylotypes detected in the enrichment cultures.

| Phylogenetic group<br>(Phylum) | Phylotype | Closest relative (Similarity, %)                                   | Number of clones |                 |                      |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|                                |           |  | H <sub>2</sub>   | Fe <sup>0</sup> | Fe <sup>0</sup> +BES |
| <i>Firmicutes</i>              | CB01      | NR_025417 <i>Sporomusa sphaerooides</i> strain DSM 2875 (99)       | 9                | 4               | 10                   |
|                                | CB02      | NR_026322 <i>Clostridium pascui</i> strain DSM 10365 (99)          | 3                | 2               |                      |
|                                | CB03      | AF295656 <i>Desulfotomaculum</i> sp. 175 (99)                      | 4                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB04      | AB538430 <i>Clostridium subterminalae</i> strain JCM 1417 (99)     |                  |                 |                      |
|                                | CB05      | Y11575 <i>Desulfotomaculum thermosavorans</i> (97)                 | 2                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB06      | AB490809 <i>Christensenella minuta</i> (91)                        | 2                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB07      | HF546400 <i>Oxobacter pfennigii</i> DSM 3222 <sup>T</sup> (96)     | 2                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB08      | EU887828 <i>Clostridium lituseburense</i> strain H17 (99)          |                  |                 |                      |
|                                | CB09      | HQ646364 <i>Turicibacter sanguinis</i> strain 111732/2010 (88)     | 1                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB10      | DQ117468 <i>Gracilibacter thermotolerans</i> strain JW/YJL-S1 (93) | 1                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB11      | CP003629 <i>Desulfosporosinus meridiei</i> DSM 13257 (89)          | 1                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB12      | AY571338 <i>Sedimentibacter hongkongensis</i> strain KI (99)       | 1                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB13      | NR_074793 <i>Oscillibacter valericigenes</i> Sjm18-20 (99)         | 1                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB14      | NR_041236 <i>Lutispora thermophila</i> strain EBR46 (97)           | 1                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB15      | NR_043579 <i>Desulfotomaculum arcticum</i> strain 15 (96)          | 1                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB16      | AB298768 <i>Clostridiaceae</i> bacterium FH052 (96)                | 1                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB17      | NR_026409 <i>Desulfotomaculum guttoidaeum</i> strain DSM 4024 (99) | 1                |                 |                      |

**Table S1.** Continued.

| Phylogenetic group<br>(Phylum) | Phylotype | Closest relative (Similarity, %)                             | Number of clones |                 |                      |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|                                |           |  | H <sub>2</sub>   | Fe <sup>0</sup> | Fe <sup>0</sup> +BES |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i>          | CB18      | NR_029118 <i>Desulfovibrio putealis</i> strain B7-43 (97)    |                  |                 |                      |
|                                | CB19      | NR_043620 <i>Desulfovibrio carbinophilus</i> strain D41 (98) | 1                | 34              | 9                    |
|                                | CB20      | AJ582758 <i>Desulfovibrio idahoensis</i> strain CY2 (99)     | 1                |                 |                      |
| <i>Bacteroidetes</i>           | CB21      | AB623230 <i>Bacteroidetes</i> bacterium 4F6B (90)            | 3                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB22      | AB787271 <i>Bacteroides</i> sp. UasXn-3 (98)                 | 2                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB23      | AJ229237 Bacteria from anoxic bulk soil (strain XB45) (96)   | 2                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB24      | AB239481 Rumen bacterium R-7 (95)                            | 1                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB25      | AB611036 <i>Bacteroidetes</i> bacterium RL-C (91)            | 1                |                 |                      |
|                                | CB26      | AB078043 <i>Flavobacterium johnsoniae</i> IFO 15970 (99)     |                  | 1               |                      |
| Total                          |           |  | 39               | 45              | 24                   |

**Table S2.** The archaeal phylotypes detected in the enrichment cultures.

| Phylogenetic group<br>(Family) | Phylotype | Closest relative (Similarity, %)                           | Number of clones |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--|------------------|-----------------|
|                                |           |  | H <sub>2</sub>   | Fe <sup>0</sup> |
| <i>Methanosaarcinaceae</i>     | CA01      | CP000099 <i>Methanosaarcina barkeri</i> strain Fusaro (99) | 26               | 7               |
| <i>Methanomicrobiaceae</i>     | CA02      | NR_074174 <i>Methanoculleus marisnigri</i> JR1 (97)        |                  | 17              |
|                                | CA03      | NR_074174 <i>Methanoculleus marisnigri</i> JR1 (99)        | 2                | 7               |
| <i>Methanobacteriaceae</i>     | CA04      | AF028688 <i>Methanobacterium bryantii</i> strain RiH2 (99) | 4                |                 |
| Total                          |           |  | 32               | 31              |