

Supporting Information for

A Pair-Electrosynthesis for Formate at Ultra-Low Voltage via Coupling of CO₂ Reduction and Formaldehyde Oxidation

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Supplementary Figures and Tables

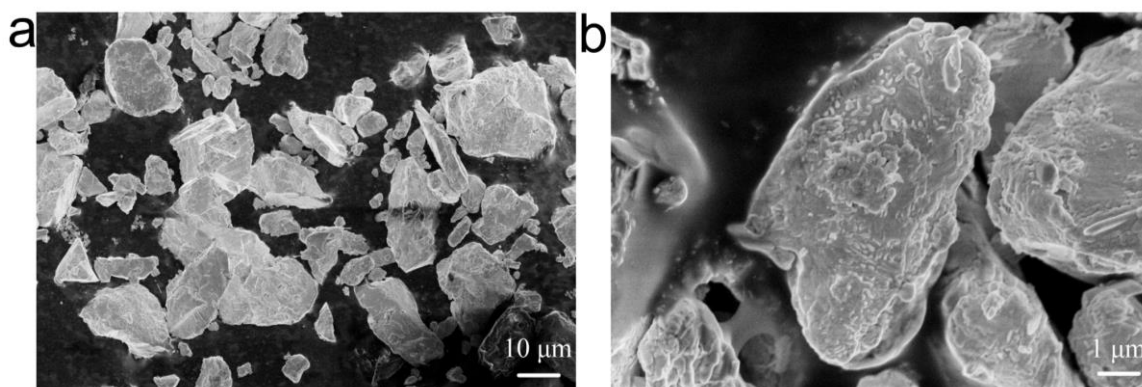


Fig. S1 SEM images of commercial Bi powder at different magnifications

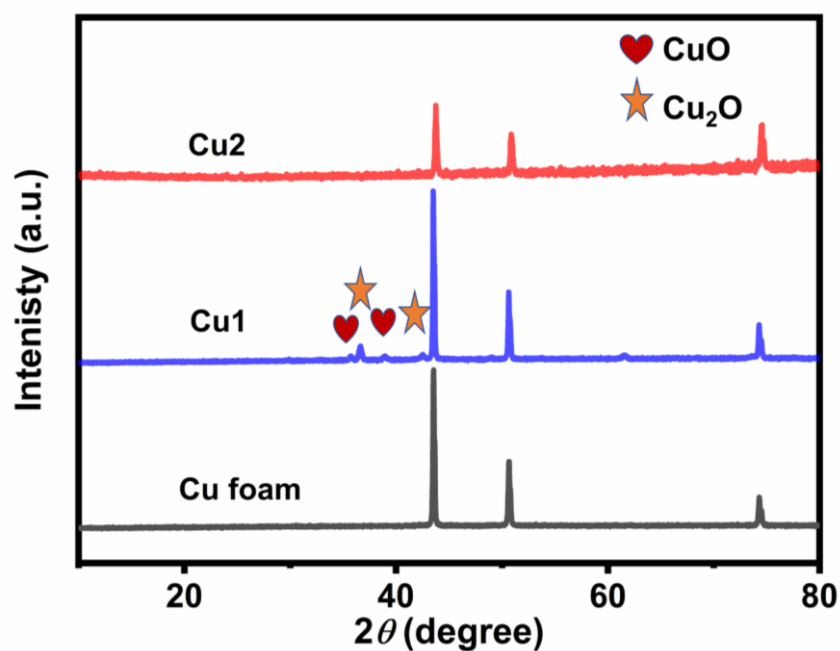


Fig. S2 XRD patterns of Cu foam, Cu1 and Cu2

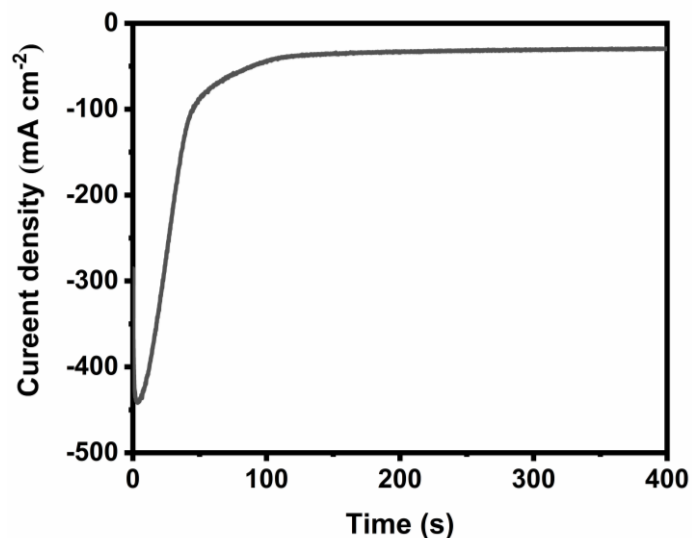


Fig. S3 Electrochemical reduction curve of CuO/Cu₂O at -0.4 V_{RHE} for 400 s in 1 M KOH electrolyte

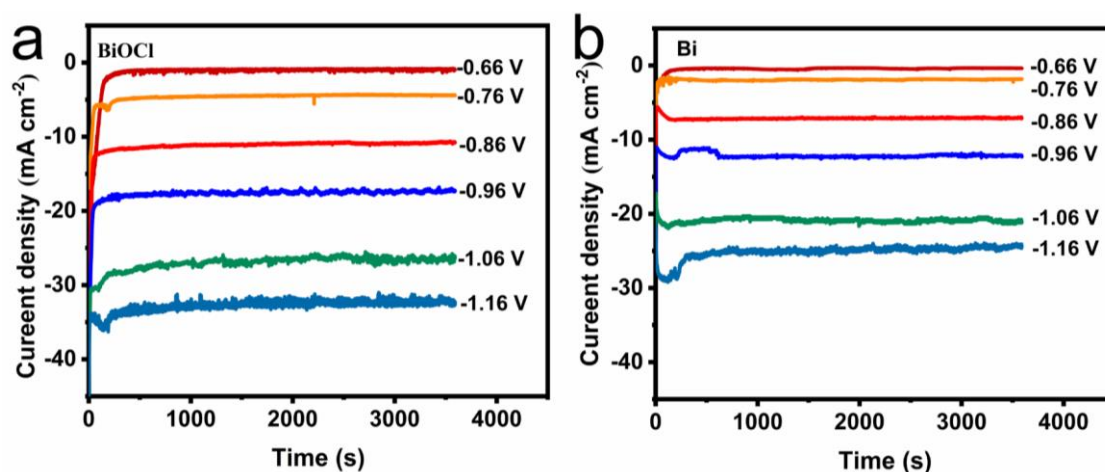


Fig. S4 Constant potential electrolysis of (a) BiOCl and (b) commercial Bi powder at the different potentials in H-cell

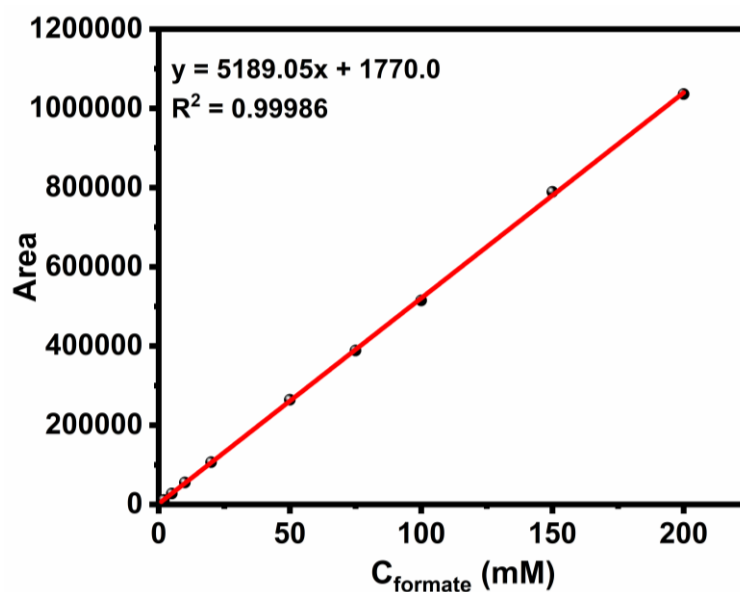


Fig. S5 Standard curve between the known concentration of formate and relative area measured by HPLC

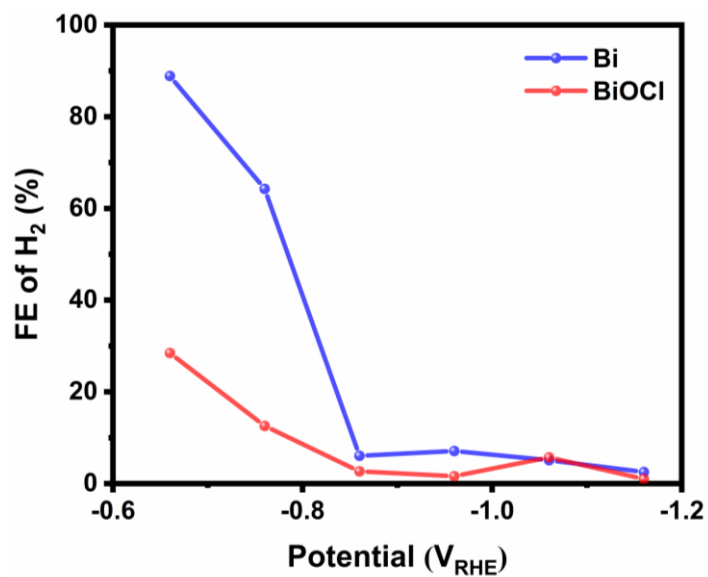


Fig. S6 Potential-dependent FE of CO₂ reduction gas product for BiOCl and commercial Bi powder

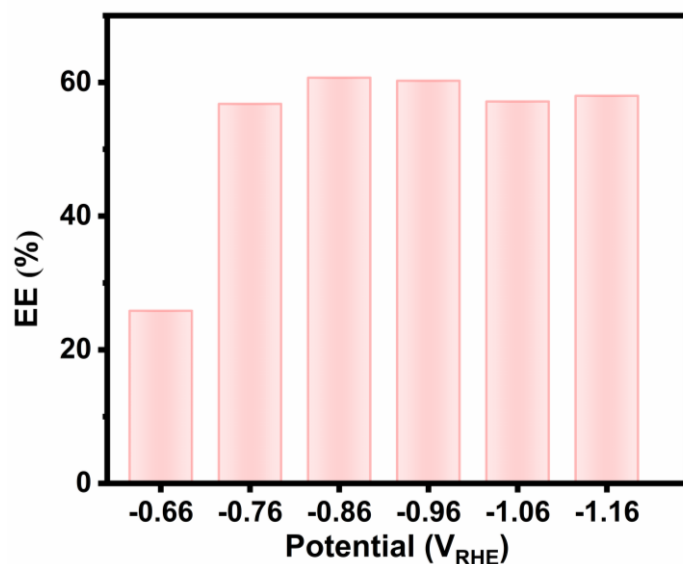


Fig. S7 EE of BiOCl nanosheet for cathodic CO₂RR in H cell

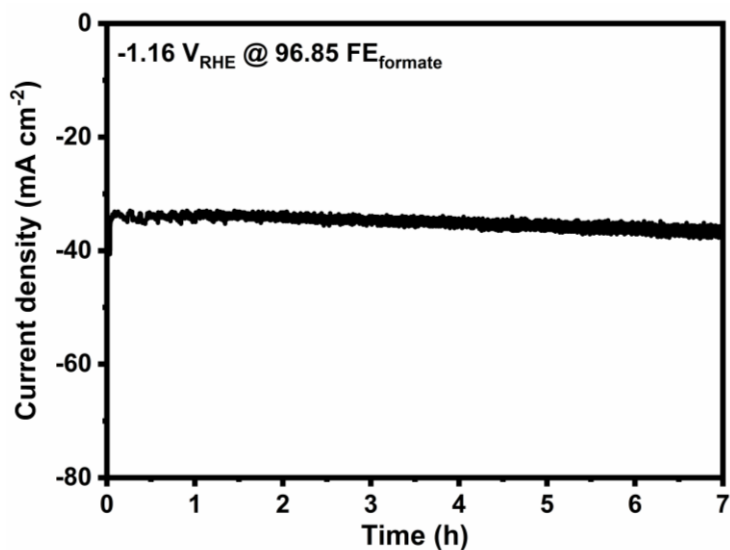


Fig. S8 Long-term stability test of BiOCl nanosheet at -1.16 V_{RHE} in H-cell

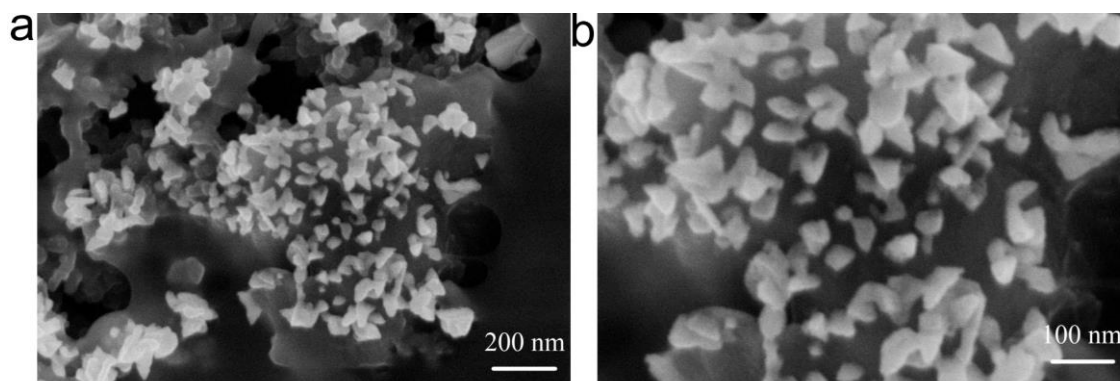


Fig. S9 SEM images of BiOCl nanosheet after CO₂RR

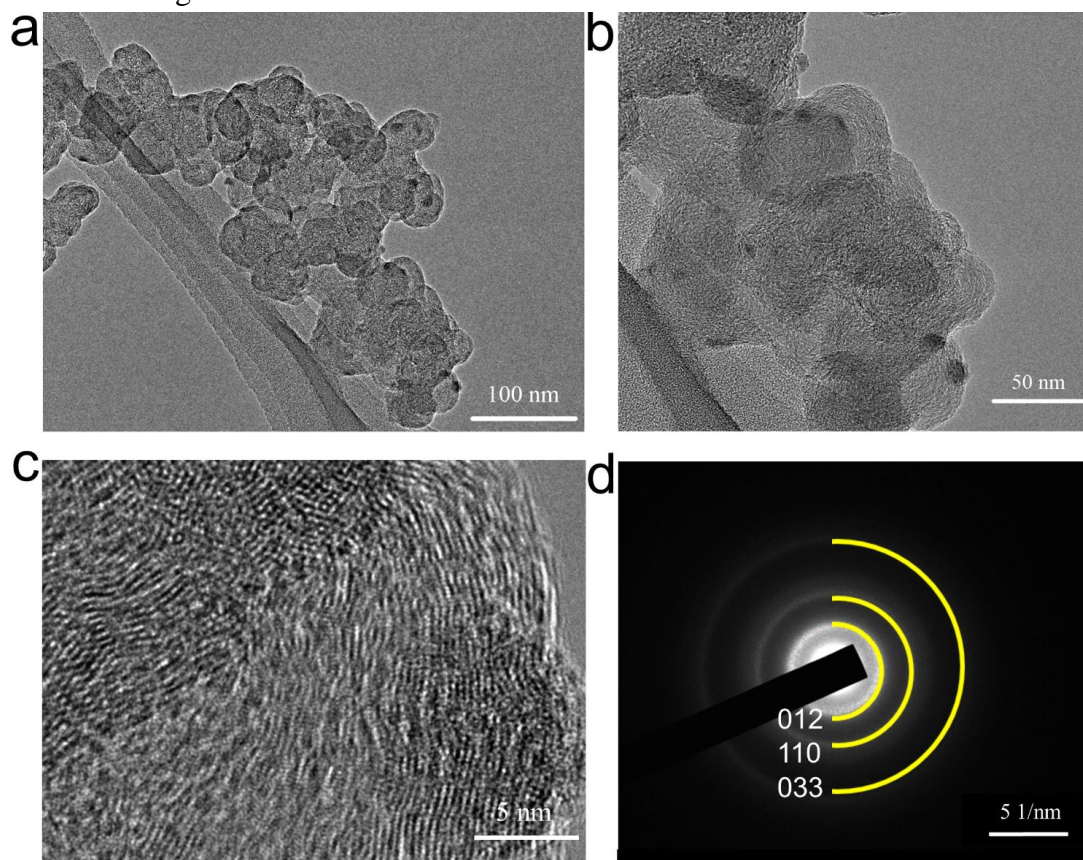


Fig. S10 (a, b) TEM images, (c) HRTEM image, (d) SAED pattern of BiOCl nanosheet after CO₂RR

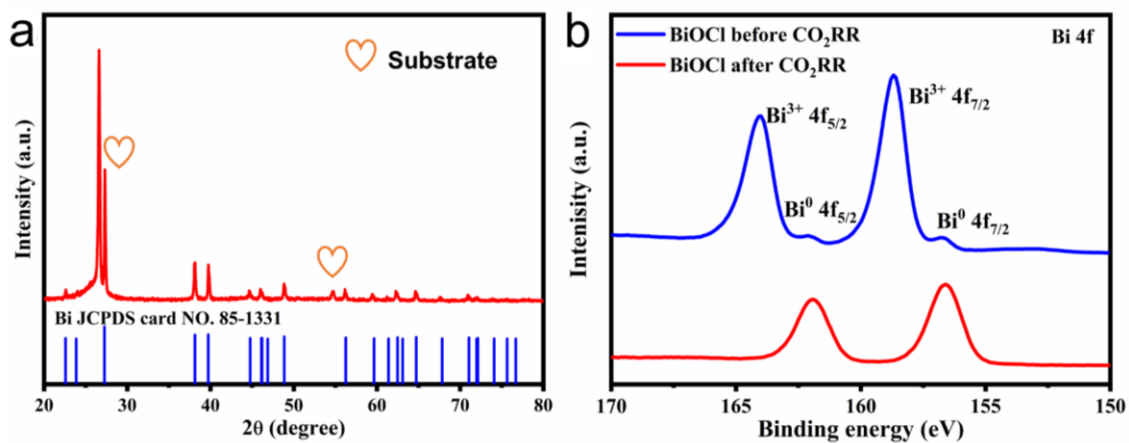


Fig. S11 (a) XRD pattern and (b) Bi 4f XPS spectrum of BiOCl nanosheet after CO₂RR

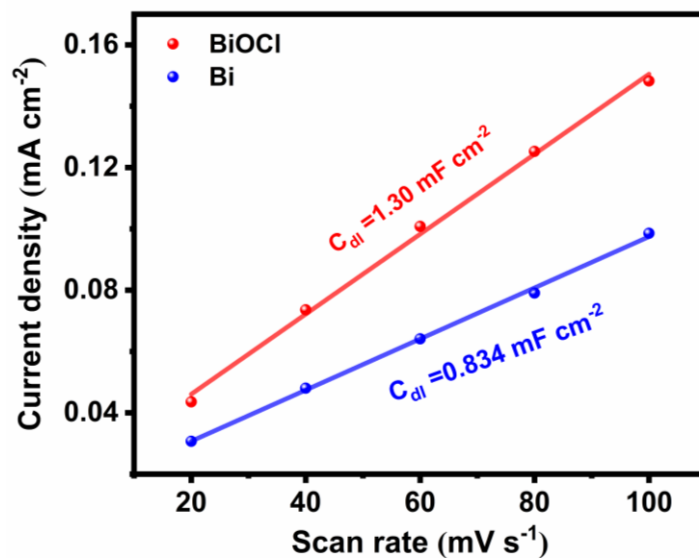


Fig. S12 The capacitive current density differences plotted against scan rates

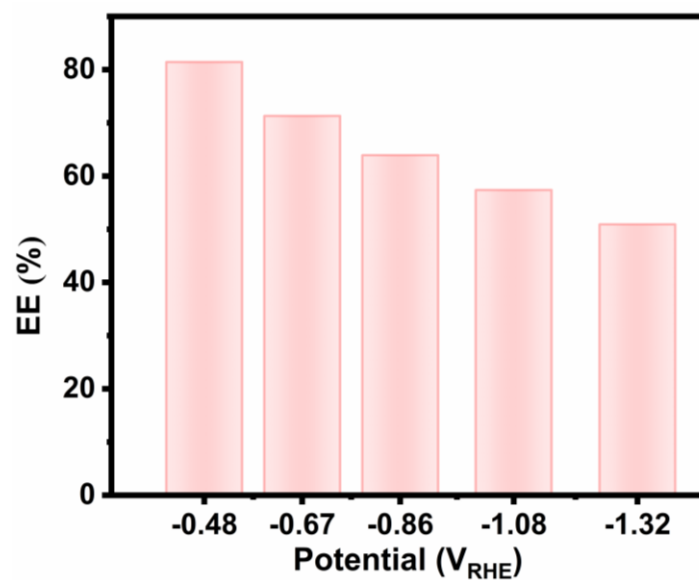


Fig. S13 EE of BiOCl nanosheet for cathodic CO₂RR in flow cell

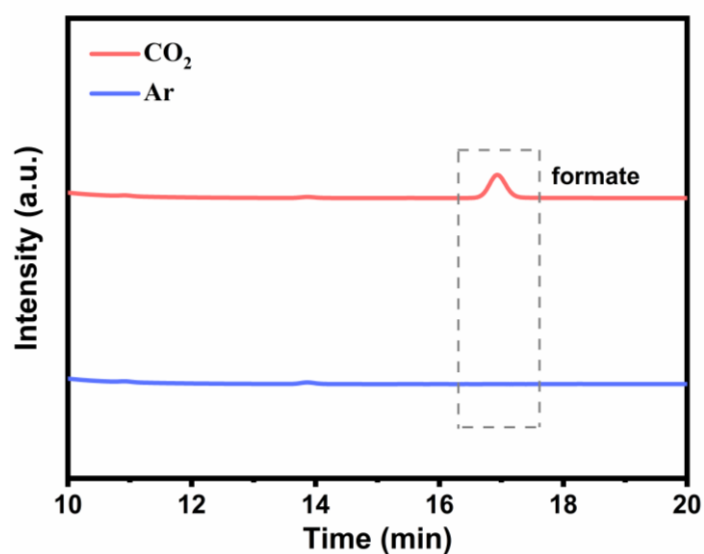


Fig. S14 HPLC spectrum of BiOCl nanosheet after electrolysis at -0.48 V_{RHE}

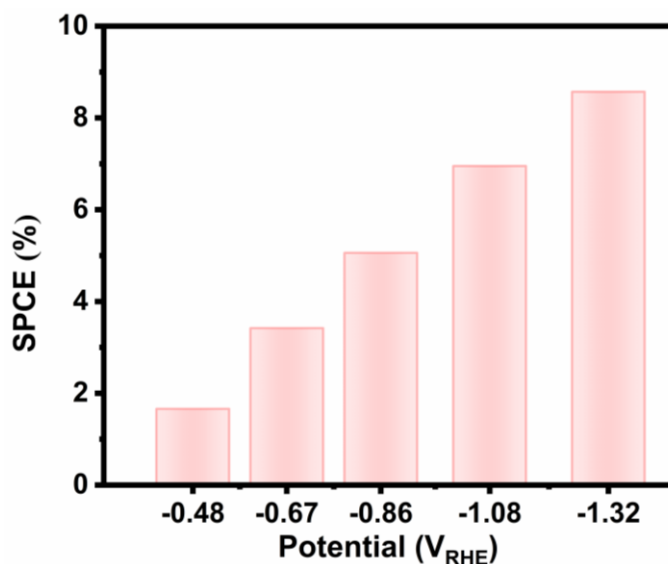


Fig. S15 SPCE of CO₂ toward formate using BiOCl nanosheet in flow cell

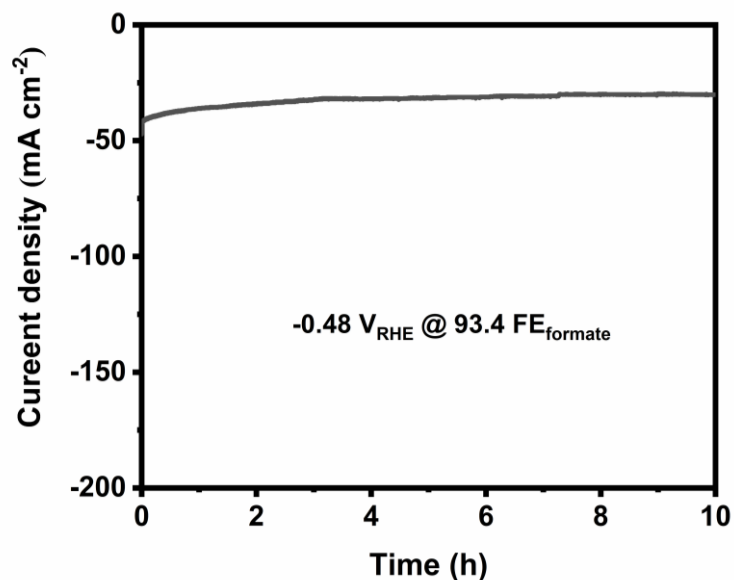


Fig. S16 Long-term stability test of BiOCl nanosheet in flow cell at -0.48 V_{RHE}

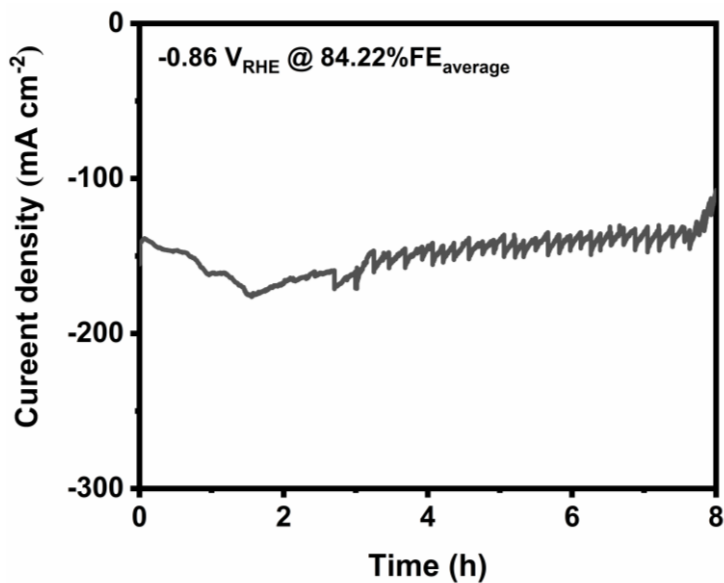


Fig. S17 Long-term stability test of BiOCl nanosheet in flow cell at -0.86 V_{RHE}

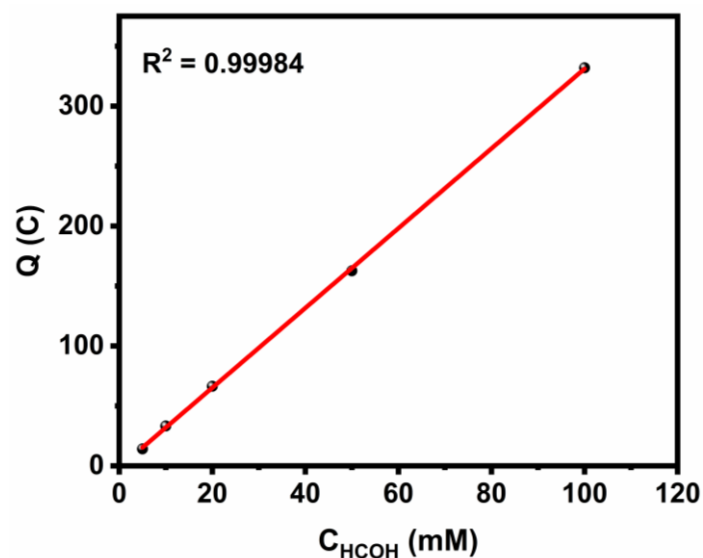


Fig. S18 Linear relationship between the concentration of formaldehyde and the charge consumed

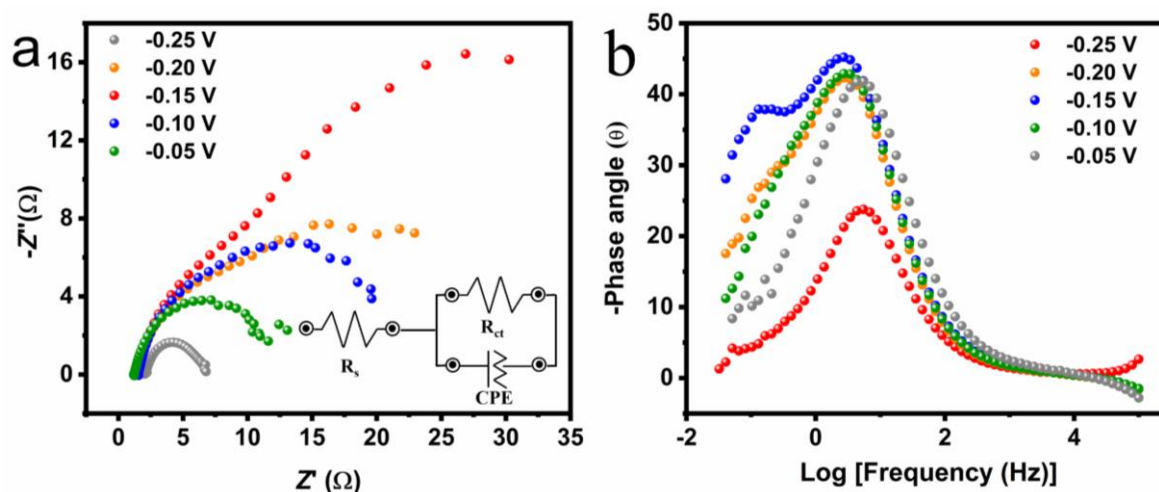


Fig. S19 (a) Nyquist plots and (b) Bode phase plots of Cu_2O in 1 M KOH with the addition of 100 mM formaldehyde at different potentials

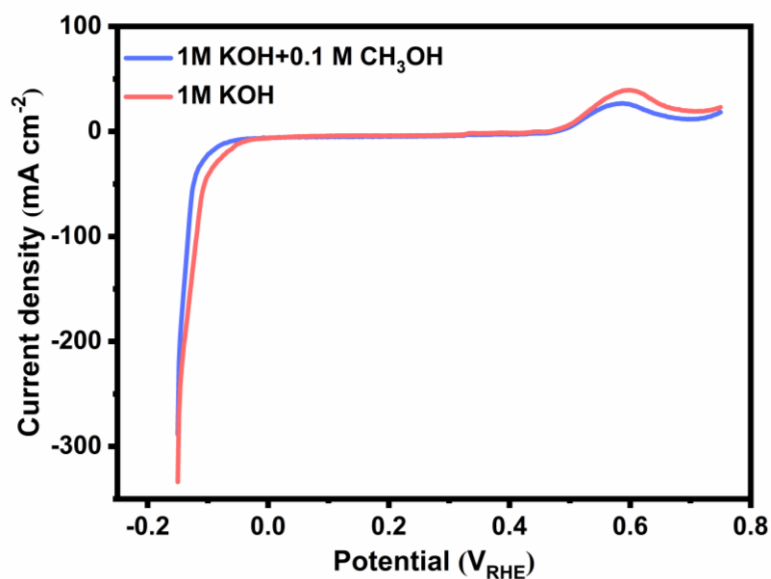


Fig. S20 LSV curves of Cu_2O in 1 M KOH electrolyte with or without CH_3OH

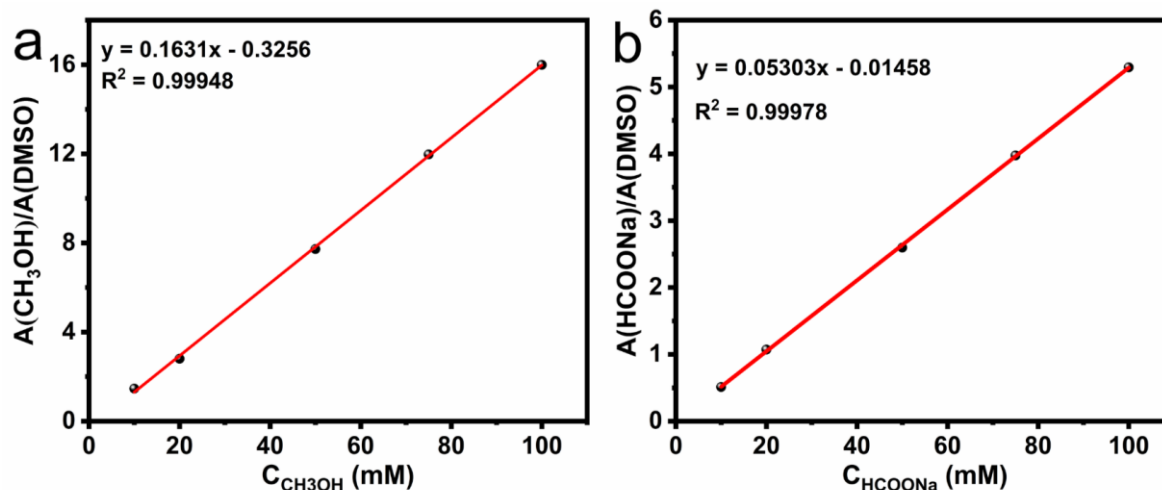


Fig. S21 (a) Linear relationship between the concentration of methanol and the ratio of relative area to reference sample (DMSO) area. (b) Linear relationship between the concentration of formate and the ratio of relative area and reference sample (DMSO) area

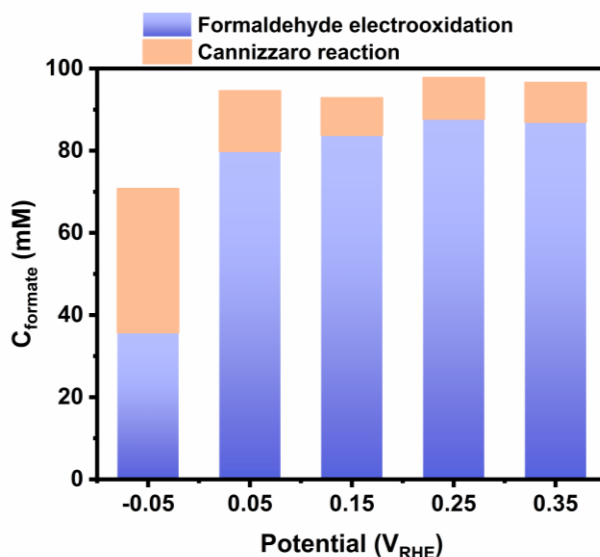


Fig. S22 Formate concentration formed by formaldehyde electrooxidation and Cannizzaro reaction

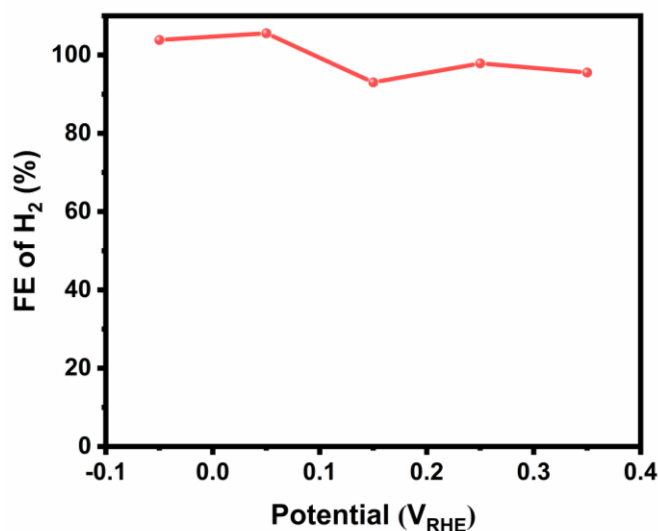


Fig. S23 H_2 FE of Cu_2O for FOR at different potentials

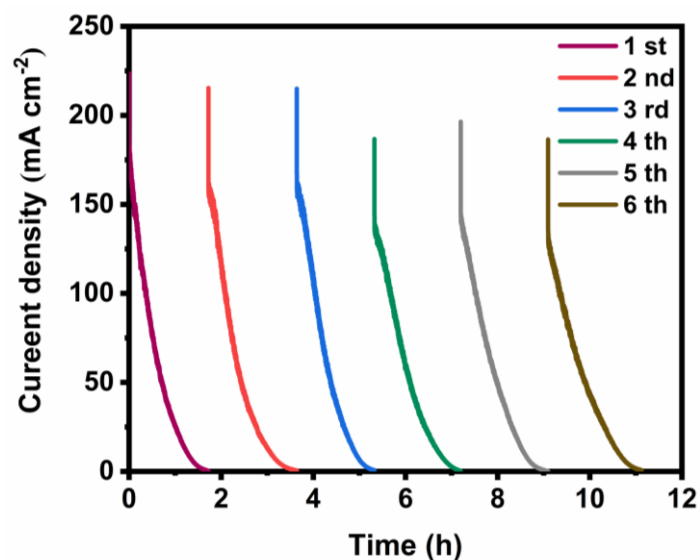


Fig. S24 *I-t* curves using Cu₂O for six successive electrolysis cycles

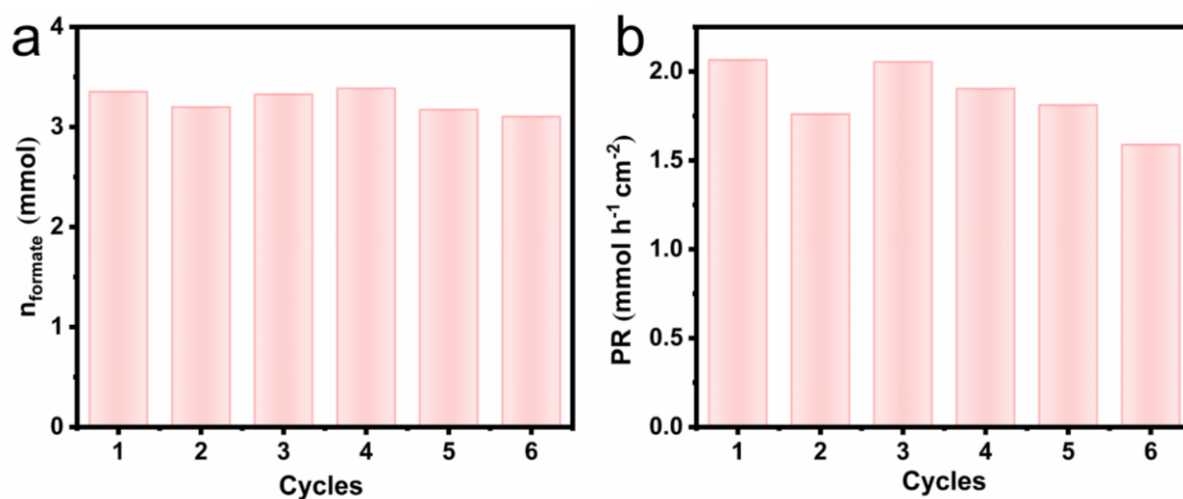


Fig. S25 (a) Moles and (b) production rate of formate using Cu₂O for six successive electrolysis cycles

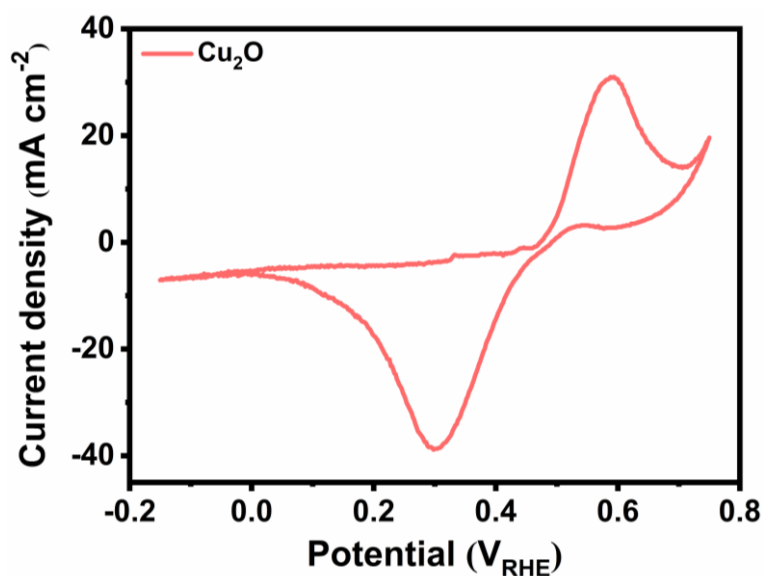


Fig. S26 CV curve of Cu₂O in 1 M KOH electrolyte

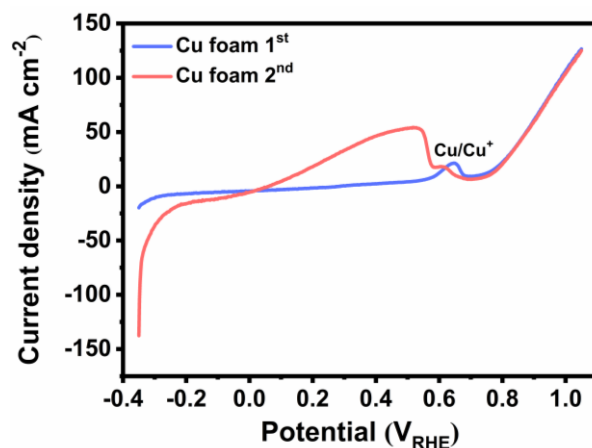


Fig. S27 LSV curves of Cu foam and Cu foam oxidation followed by reduction in 1 M KOH electrolyte with 0.1 M formaldehyde

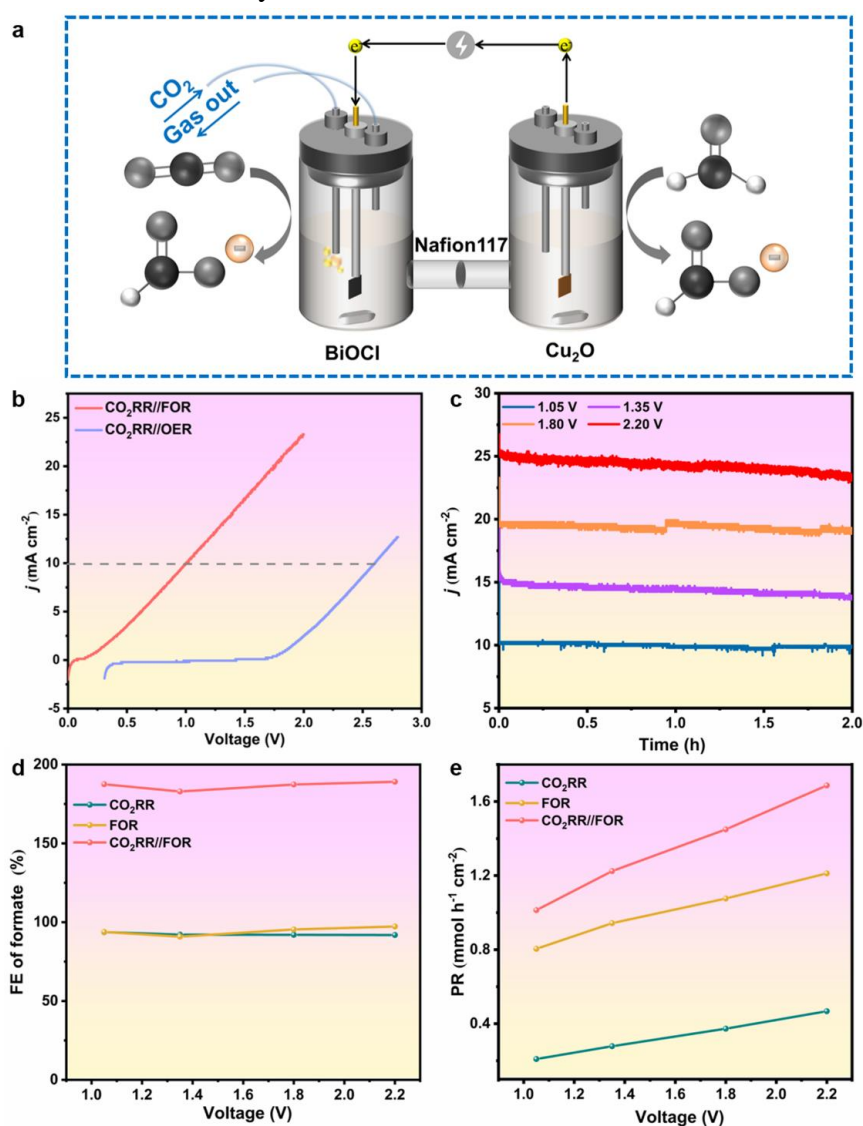


Fig. S28 Electrochemical performance of CO₂RR coupled with FOR in H-cell. (a) Schematic diagram for CO₂RR coupled with FOR to realize the electrosynthesis of formate. (b) LSV curves of CO₂RR//FOR and CO₂RR//OER full cells. (c) Constant potential electrolysis of CO₂RR//FOR full cell at different voltages. (d) Voltage-dependent formate FE, (e) formate production rate of anodic FOR, cathodic CO₂RR and CO₂RR//FOR full cell

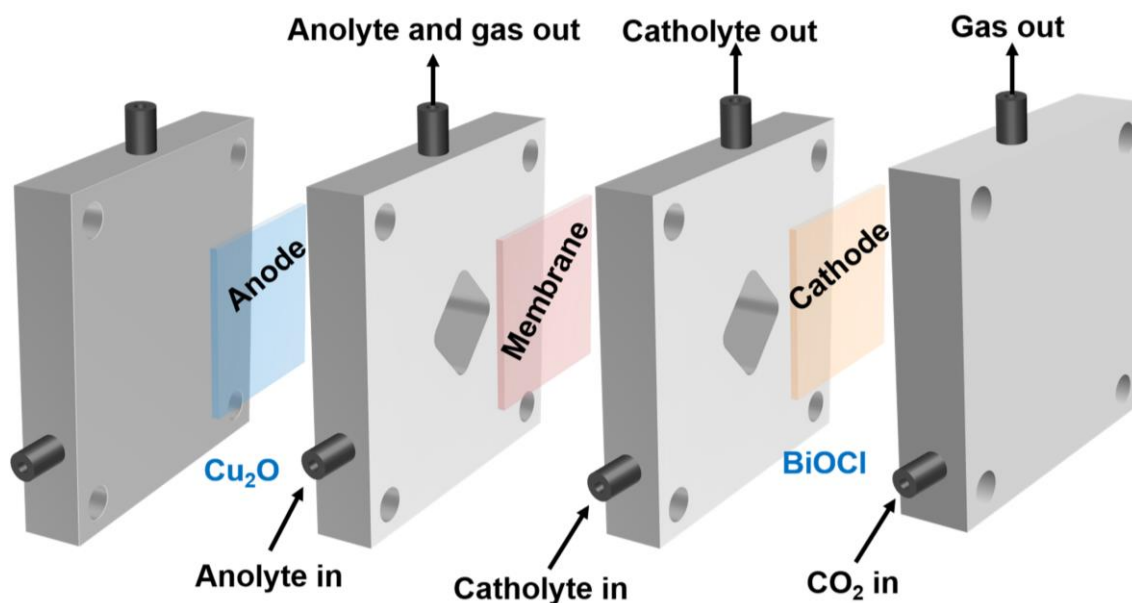


Fig. S29 Schematic diagram for CO₂RR coupled with FOR in a liquid-phase flow cell

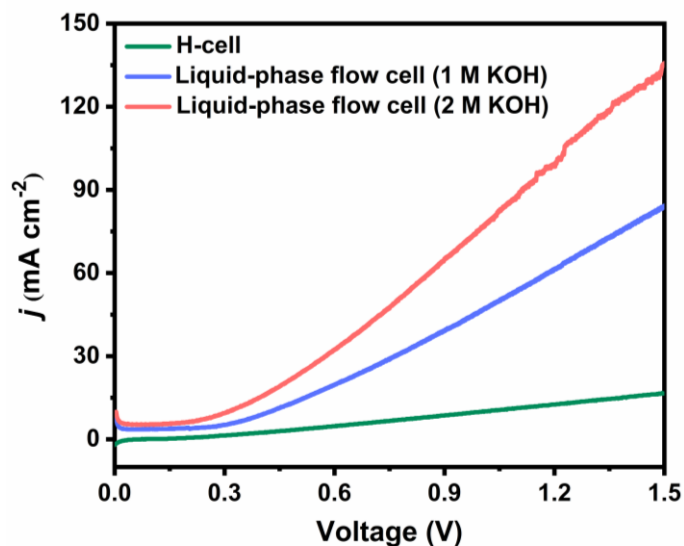


Fig. S30 LSV curves of CO₂RR//FOR full cell in H-cell and liquid-phase flow cell

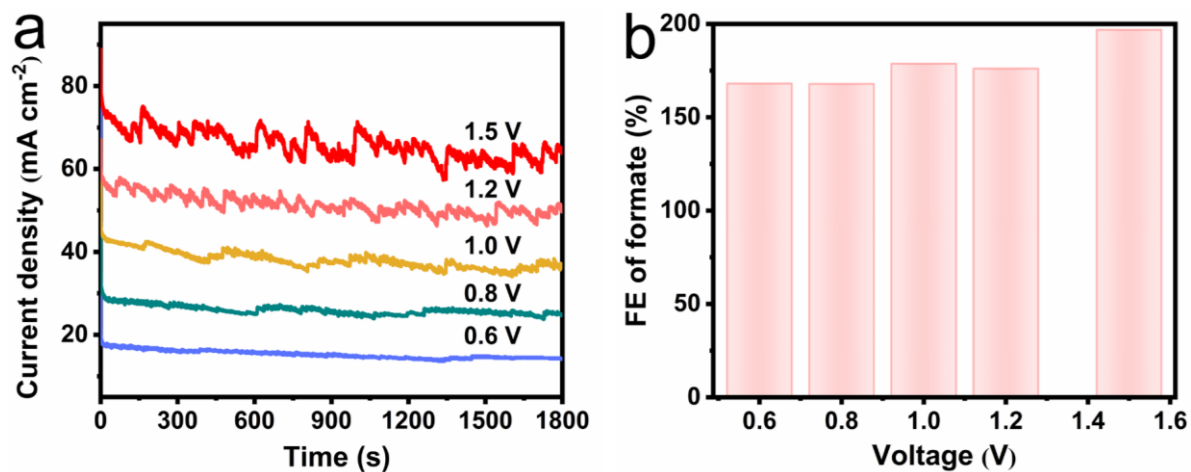


Fig. S31 (a) Chronoamperometry curves and (b) potential-dependent total formate FE in a liquid-phase flow cell with 1 M KOH electrolyte

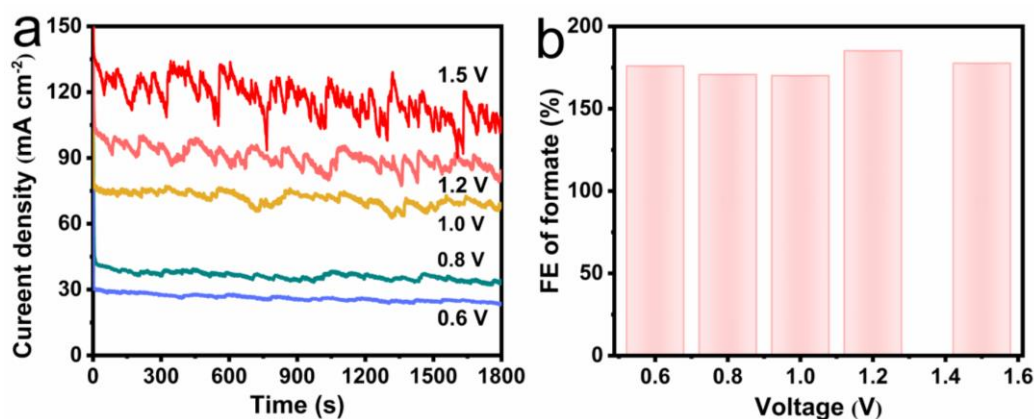


Fig. S32 (a) Chronoamperometry curves and (b) potential-dependent total formate FE in a liquid-phase flow cell with 2 M KOH electrolyte

Table S1 Gibb's free energy of formation at 25 °C and 101.325 kPa

Molecular formula	$\Delta_f G_m^0$ (kJ mol ⁻¹)
H ₂ O (l)	-237.129
O ₂ (g)	0
CO ₂ (g)	-394.359
HCOOH (l)	-361.35
OH ⁻ (aq)	-157.244
HCOH (g)	-102.54

Table S2 Comparison of electrocatalytic CO₂RR to formate performance on various catalysts in H-cell from recent literature

Catalysts	Electrolyte	Potential (V _{RHE})	FE (%)	j_{formate} (mA cm ⁻²)	Refs.
BiOCl	0.5 M KHCO ₃	-0.86	90.7	11.11	this work
BiOCl	0.5 M KHCO ₃	-1.16	99.0	36.24	this work
High crystalline Bi ₂ O ₃	0.5 M KHCO ₃	-0.9	91	8	[S1]
Bi ₂ O ₃ @C-800	0.5 M KHCO ₃	-0.9	92	7.5	[S2]
Bi ₂ O ₃ NSs@MCCM	0.1 M KHCO ₃	-1.256	93.8	14	[S3]
Bi/rGO	0.1 M KHCO ₃	-0.8	98	2~3	[S4]
Cu foam@BiNW	0.5 M NaHCO ₃	-0.69	95	15	[S5]
Bi ₂ O ₂ CO ₃ nanosheets	0.1 M NaHCO ₃	-0.7	85	9.35	[S6]
Activated Bi ₂ Te ₃ NPs/C	0.5 M NaHCO ₃	-0.9	89.6	14	[S7]
Bi ₂ S ₃ -Bi ₂ O ₃ @rGO	0.1 M KHCO ₃	-0.9	90.1	3.7	[S8]
Fractal-Bi ₂ O ₃	0.1 M KHCO ₃	-1.2	87	20.9	[S9]
Bilayer-Bi ₁₂ O ₁₇ Cl ₂ nanosheet	0.5 M NaHCO ₃	-0.89	93.5	11.5	[S10]
BiOBr-templated catalyst	1.0 M KHCO ₃	-0.9	96	52.8	[S11]
Ultrathin Bi NS	0.5 M NaHCO ₃	-0.82	95	14	[S12]
Oxide-derived Bi-Sn/CF	0.5 M KHCO ₃	-1.14	96	43.2	[S13]
Mesoporous-SnO ₂ NS	0.5 M NaHCO ₃	-0.9	83	15	[S14]
Sn sheets/GO	0.1 M NaHCO ₃	-1.16	89	18.8	[S15]
SnO ₂ porous nanowire	0.1 M KHCO ₃	-0.8	80	4.8	[S16]
Bi nanosheets	0.1 M KHCO ₃	-1.1	86	16.5	[S17]
Bi dendrite	0.5 M KHCO ₃	-0.74	89	2.7	[S18]
Bi ₂ S ₃ derived Bi	0.5 M NaHCO ₃	-0.75	84	4.2	[S19]
Bi nanoflakes	0.1 M KHCO ₃	-0.6	100	2	[S20]
Bi-ene	0.5 M KHCO ₃	-0.83	97.5	15.28	[S21]
Bi ₂ O ₃ -NGQDs	0.5 M KHCO ₃	-0.9	98.1	18.1	[S22]

Table S3 Comparison of electrocatalytic CO₂RR to formate performance on various catalysts in flow cell from recent literature

Catalysts	Electrolyte	Potential (V _{RHE})	FE (%)	<i>j</i> _{formate} (mA cm ⁻²)	IR	Refs.
BiOCl	1 M KOH	-1.08	94.65	219.3	No	this work
MIL-68(In)-NH ₂	1 M KHCO ₃	-1.1	94	108	No	[S23]
Bi-ene	1 M KOH	-0.57	99.8	100	No	[S21]
Bi-ene	1 M KOH	-0.75	99.2	200	No	[S21]
Bi ₂ O ₃ @C-800	1 M KOH	-1.1	93	208	No	[S2]
Bi ₂ O ₃ NTs	1 M KHCO ₃	-0.85	95	133	90%	[S24]
Bi ₂ O ₃ NTs	1 M KOH	-0.58	98	206	90%	[S24]
POD-Bi	1 M KOH	-0.63	93.6	187	95%	[S25]
BiOBr templated	2 M KHCO ₃	/	90	180	90%	[S11]
Bi ₂ S ₃	1 M KOH	-0.59	~100	205	90%	[S26]
In-Sn	0.5 M KHCO ₃	-1.16	87.1	62.8	No	[S27]
SnO ₂ nanosheet	1 M KOH	-1.13	94.2	443.7	Yes	[S28]
Sn-based GDE	0.5 M KHCO ₃	-1.16	73.0	25.0	/	[S29]
Cu ₃ Sn/Cu ₆ Sn ₅ alloy	1 M KOH	-0.98	87	128.8	/	[S30]

Table S4 The summary of the corresponding fitting date of Cu₂O electrode at different potentials

Potential (V _{RHE})	<i>R</i> _s (Ω)	<i>R</i> _{ct} (Ω)	<i>R</i> _{total} (Ω)
-0.25	2.064	4.65	6.714
-0.20	1.475	24.19	25.665
-0.15	1.467	46.43	47.897
-0.10	1.499	20.22	21.719
-0.05	1.202	10.80	12.002

Table S5 The summary of electrooxidation performance of Cu₂O in the complete conversion of formaldehyde under different potentials in three-electrode system

Potential V _{RHE}	C (mM)	FE (%)	Production rate (mmol h ⁻¹ cm ⁻²)
-0.05	35.73	99.52	0.508
0.05	79.83	98.57	0.829
0.15	83.75	98.22	1.117
0.25	87.70	95.45	1.452
0.35	86.94	92.90	1.479

C is the concentration formed by formaldehyde electrooxidation.

Table S6 Comparison of electrochemical CO₂ conversion system on various catalysts from recent literature

Paired electrolysis	Anode	Cathode	Reactor	Performance	Refs.
CO ₂ RR//FOR	Cu ₂ O 1 M KOH+100 mM HCOH FE: 93.67% (HCOO ⁻)	BiOCl 0.5 M KHCO ₃ FE: 93.83% (HCOO ⁻)	H-cell	1.05V @ 10.6 mA cm ⁻²	this work
CO ₂ RR//FOR	Cu ₂ O 2 M KOH+100 mM HCOH FE: 92.6% (HCOO ⁻)	BiOCl 2 M KOH FE: 92.6% (HCOO ⁻)	Flow cell	1.2 V @ 100.2 mA cm ⁻²	this work
CO ₂ RR//FOR	Cu ₂ O 1 M KOH+100 mM	BiOCl 1 M KOH	MEA	1.0 V @ 126.9 mA cm ⁻²	this work

	HCOH FE: 93.04% (HCOO ⁻)	FE: 93.04% (HCOO ⁻)				
CO ₂ RR//MOR	CuONS/CF 1 M KOH+1 M CH ₃ OH FE: 91.3% (HCOO ⁻)	mSnO ₂ /CC 1 M KHCO ₃ FE: 80.5% (HCOO ⁻)	H-cell	1.22 V @ 20 mA cm ⁻²	[S31]	
CO ₂ RR//OER	Ir/C 0.5 M KHCO ₃	BiNS 0.5 M KHCO ₃ FE: 95% (HCOO ⁻)	H-cell	3.0 V @ 8 mA cm ⁻²	[S12]	
CO ₂ RR//OER	RuO ₂ 1 M KOH	Bi-ene 0.5 M KHCO ₃	H-cell	2.38 V @ 10 mA cm ⁻²	[S21]	
CO ₂ RR//MOR	Ni-NF-AF 1 M KOH+0.5 M CH ₃ OH FE: ~100% (HCOO ⁻)	Bi-enes 0.5 M KHCO ₃ FE: ~100% (HCOO ⁻)	H-cell	2.13 V @ 10 mA cm ⁻²	[S32]	
CO ₂ RR//HMF	NiO NPS 0.5 M KHCO ₃ +10 mM HMF FE: 36% (FDCA, FFCA, DFF)	BiO _x 0.5 M KHCO ₃ FE: 81% (HCOO ⁻)	H-cell	2.5 V @ 2 mA cm ⁻²	[S33]	
CO ₂ RR//OER	Mesoporous-SnO ₂ 0.5 M NaHCO ₃ FE: 50% (formate)	IrO ₂ /Ti foil 0.5 M NaHCO ₃	H-cell	3 V @ 7.3 mA cm ⁻²	[S14]	
CO ₂ RR//GOR	Pt nanoparticle 2 M KOH+2 M glycerol	Sn nanoparticle 2 M KOH FE: 85.0% (HCOO ⁻)	Flow cell	1.5 V @ 72.95 mA cm ⁻²	[S34]	
CO ₂ RR//GOR	Pt nanoparticle 2 M KOH+2 M glycerol	Ag nanoparticle 2 M KOH FE: 94.7% (CO)	Flow cell	1.5 V @ 93.42 mA cm ⁻²	[S34]	
CO ₂ RR//UOR	Ni-WO _x 1 M KOH+0.33 M urea	Ag NPs FE: 98% (CO)	MEA	2.16 V @ 100 mA cm ⁻²	[S35]	
CO ₂ RR//OER	Ni-WO _x 1 M KOH	Ag NPs	MEA	2.53 V @ 100 mA cm ⁻²	[S35]	
CO ₂ RR//OER	Foam nickel 1 M KOH	MIL-68(In)-NH ₂ FE: 92.2% (HCOO ⁻)	MEA	2.7 V @ 258 mA cm ⁻²	[S23]	

Supplementary References

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