

# How to prepare methanol for energy storage

Why is methanol a good energy carrier?

The identified strengths of methanol as an energy carrier include its high volumetric energy density, the mature technology for producing it from hydrogen and carbon dioxide, and its broad applicability.

Could methanol be an alternative to hydrogen storage?

Methanol as ULDES could offer an alternative to hydrogen storage. A concept for methanol storage with carbon cycling from Baak et al. 8 is sketched in Figure 1 with all inputs and outputs. Methanol can be synthesized from electrolytic hydrogen and carbon oxides (so called "e-methanol").

Can methanol be used as a cyclic energy source?

Upcycling carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and intermittently generated renewable hydrogen to stored products such as methanol (MeOH) allows the cyclic use of carbon and addresses the challenges of storage energy density, size and transportability as well as responsiveness to energy production and demand better than most storage alternatives.

How is methanol stored?

Methanol is stored as a liquid at ambient temperature and pressure, oxygen is stored as a liquid at - 183 °C, and carbon dioxide is stored as a liquid at 7 bar and - 50 °C; only hydrogen is stored as a gas (at 250 bar) while it is buffered before going into the methanol synthesis. Figure inspired by Baak et al. 8

Does methanol synthesis require large-scale hydrogen storage?

In production facilities using fossil fuels, methanol synthesis is run with high-capacity factors. Maintaining these high load levels with fluctuating hydrogen supply from variable electricity would require large-scale hydrogen storage to buffer the hydrogen, which may not be available as discussed above.

How much methanol can be stored in a tank?

A single 200,000 m<sup>3</sup> cylindrical tank with diameter 80 m and height 40 m can store 880 GWh of methanol. When combusted with pure oxygen in a transcritical Allam cycle turbine using carbon dioxide as the working fluid, up to 98% of the carbon dioxide from combustion can be captured with minimal effort, producing power at efficiencies of up to 66%.

Energy storage: green methanol can store the excess of renewable energy. During periods of high renewable energy generation, it can be produced using electrolysis and chemical synthesis. Later, when the supply of renewable energy lowers, the stored methanol can once again become electricity or be used for various applications, making the net ...

The intermittency of renewable electricity requires the deployment of energy-storage technologies as global

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energy grids become more sustainably sourced. Upcycling carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and intermittently generated renewable hydrogen to stored products such as methanol (MeOH) allows the cyclic use of carbon and addresses the challenges of storage energy density, size and ...

The renewable methanol synthesis via CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation is regarded as an innovative energy storage technology, whereby H<sub>2</sub> generated from water electrolysis using surplus electricity can be combined with CO<sub>2</sub> captured from various industrial sectors as well as the atmosphere to produce liquid fuels (methanol, formic acid, dimethyl ether, etc.).

Power to methanol efficiency is determined to be around 50%. The cost of methanol is around 300EUR ton<sup>-1</sup> excluding and 800EUR ton<sup>-1</sup> including wind turbine capital cost. Excluding 300 MEUR investment cost for 100 MW of wind turbines, total plant capital cost is around 200 MEUR. About 45% of the capital cost is reserved for the electrolyzers, 50% for the CO<sub>2</sub> air ...

The value of 0.480 is the maximum theoretical energy storage efficiency for methanol production. The pre-compression of the feed gases generated a limited decrease in the efficiency (0.455) that could be reduced by 70% by adding a metal-hydride compressor in the system. In order to achieve a high level of conversion, two strategies could be ...

A general exploration of electric energy storage through hydrogen and methanol has been performed by Rihko-Struckmann et al. [6]. The authors conclude that while the methanol system yields a "poor" system energy efficiency of 17.6%, there are significant advantages of methanol over hydrogen due to practicality of methanol storage.

K&#246;ttner et al. [7] and Colbertaldo et al. [8] have investigated the efficiency of power-to-gas storage technology. In the western regions of China, renewable energy presents a cost-effective means to convert water (H<sub>2</sub>O) into H<sub>2</sub> and oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) via the promising electrolysis technology is envisioned that the H<sub>2</sub> produced in western China can be ...

o Expansion of energy markets for methanol builds demand for sustainably-sourced and locally-produced methanol. .METHANOL Several Renewable Production Pathways Exist Reformer CH<sub>4</sub> ... meter of methanol equals the storage capacity of 222 battery-electric BMW i3's g \*Storage capacity BMW i3 = 21,6 kWh . .METHANOL 04 NEW MARKETS .

Methanol also is thought to be the "fuel in the future," driving a "methanol economy" where it replaces fossil fuels in transportation, energy storage and as the dominant precursor material for ...

In addition to the announced renewable methanol projects, the database also tracks another 14 low-carbon or "blue" methanol production projects incorporating carbon capture, utilization and storage, and totaling 8.1 million tons of capacity by 2030. Total renewable and low-carbon methanol project pipeline composes 37.5

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Mt by 2030.

Methanol has a vital role in our daily life, being fundamental to the commodities value chain and one of the most promising sustainable fuels for the shipping industry (Maersk, 2021). The main feedstocks to make e-methanol are ...

A new electrolyzer rotation strategy is proposed to address the problem of insufficient purity of electrolytic CO<sub>2</sub> to methanol due to voltage fluctuation, and the capacity configuration of an ...

This study investigates the second of these options and concentrates on hydrogen-based methanol as a potential renewable energy carrier. The identified strengths of methanol as an energy carrier include its high volumetric energy density, the mature ...

technologies are used to make methanol from fossil fuel-based syngas and can be used for bio- and e-methanol production. o Currently the main barrier to renewable methanol uptake is its higher cost compared to fossil fuel-based alternatives, and that cost differential will persist for some time to come. However, its value is in its emission

Methanol is a leading candidate for storage of solar-energy-derived renewable electricity as energy-dense liquid fuel, yet there are different approaches to achieving this goal. This Perspective comparatively assesses indirect CO- and direct CO<sub>2</sub>-based solar strategies and identifies the conditions under which the former becomes economically viable.

Methanol (MeOH) is a promising liquid energy carrier with potential use in several applications, either as a chemical or a fuel or as a platform molecule for the synthesis of heavier alcohols, dimethyl ether, gasoline and more complex chemicals, such as olefins [8].Synthesizing methanol from captured CO<sub>2</sub> and green hydrogen is a valuable opportunity for the ...

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