

Supercapacitors within the Water-Energy Nexus

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Within the so-called Water-Energy Nexus, smart and sustainable energy harvesters and storage technologies are required for an efficient managing of water and renewable energy sources. Within this context, microbial fuel cells (MFC) and supercapacitors (SC) are playing a key role. MFCs are bio-electrochemical devices that convert the chemical energy of wastewater organic compounds directly into electrical energy. SCs can store the energy harvested by the MFC and deliver it back at desired power.

Strategies that lower the environmental and economic impact of disassembly and recycling of waste devices are mandatory. The use of water-processable electrode binders and new membrane production techniques like electrospinning are viable approaches to decrease cost and environmental footprint. Here, a study on the development of bio-inspired supercapacitors, including natural binders and electrospun separator, to be integrated with MFCs is reported and discussed.

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