## Supplementary material for:

## High-performance Tin Phosphide/Carbon Composite Anode for Lithium-ion Batteries

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Fig. S1 Low-magnified SEM image of the SnP/C composite.



Fig. S2 Low-magnified SEM image of the Sn<sub>4</sub>P<sub>3</sub>/C composite.



Fig. S3 The EDX spectra for the SnP/C composite, and the signal of Cu arises from the TEM grid.



Fig. S4 The EDX spectra for the Sn<sub>4</sub>P<sub>3</sub>/C composite, and the signal of Cu arises from the TEM grid.

Raman spectrum of the SnP/C composite (**Fig. S5**) shows two characteristic peaks situated around 1337 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1601 cm<sup>-1</sup>, attributed to the D- and G-bands of graphite, respectively.



Fig. S5 Raman spectrum of the SnP/C composite.



Fig. S6 TGA curve of the SnP/C composite under air atmosphere.

C 1s spectrum of the SnP/C composite is shown in **Fig. S7**, where the main peak at 284.7 eV is attributed to the graphitic carbon coat of SnP/C and the small peak at ~286.1 eV corresponding to the C-O bond.



Fig. S7 X-Ray photoelectron spectral region for C 1s level of the SnP/C composite.

Fig. S8 shows the C 1s spectrum of the  $Sn_4P_3/C$  composite, which is very similar to that of SnP/C. And the small peak at ~286 eV can be ascribed to the C-O.



Fig. S8 X-Ray photoelectron spectral region for C 1s level of the Sn<sub>4</sub>P<sub>3</sub>/C composite.

The cyclic performance of the SnP/C at 0.1 A  $g^{-1}$  is displayed in **Fig. S9**, and the SnP/C electrode remains a specific capacity around 751 mAh  $g^{-1}$  after 30 cycles.



**Fig. S9** Cycling performance and coulombic efficiency (CE) of the SnP/C composite electrode at a current density of 0.1 A  $g^{-1}$ .



Fig. S10 The equivalent circuit model to fit the Nyquist plots, and Rs: Contact resistance between electrode and electrolyte; Rct: Charge transfer resistance; CPE: Constant phase element.