

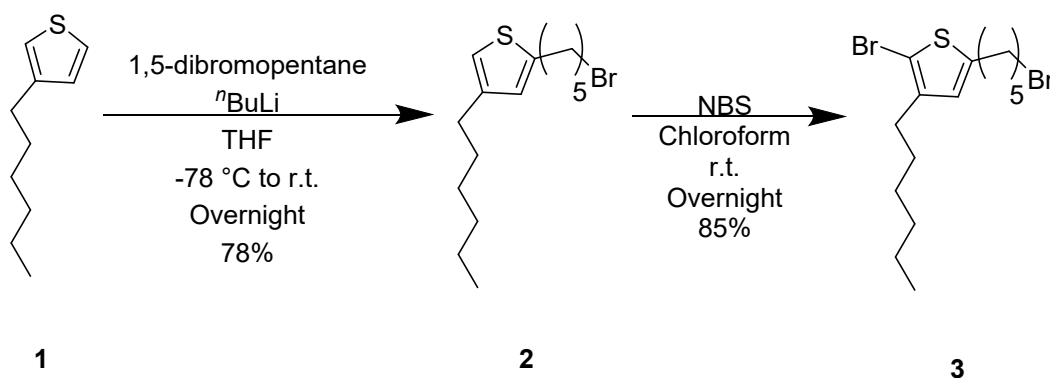
Supplementary Information

Transient Polymer Electronics Enabled by Grafting of Oligo-3-hexylthiophenes onto Polycaprolactone

Eddie Wai Chi Chan^{a,b}, Xin Sun^{a,b}, Yuhka Uda^{a,b}, Bicheng Zhu^{a,b}, David Barker^{a,b}, Jadranka Travas-Sejdic^{*a,b}

^aCentre for Innovative Materials for Health, School of Chemical Sciences, The University of Auckland - Waipapa Taumata Rau, 23 Symonds Street, Auckland, 1023, New Zealand

^bMacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology, Kelburn Parade, Wellington, 6140, New Zealand



Scheme S1: Synthesis of capping group 2-bromo-5-(bromomethyl)-3-hexylthiophene **3**.

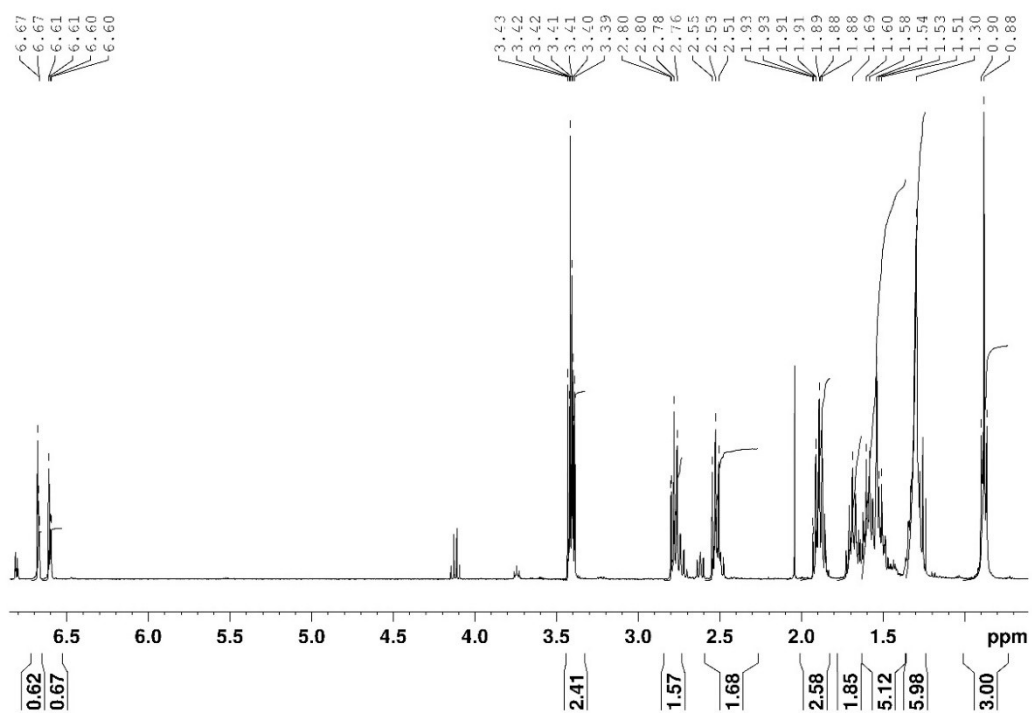


Figure S1: ^1H NMR spectra of 2-(5-bromopentyl)-4-hexylthiophene **2**.

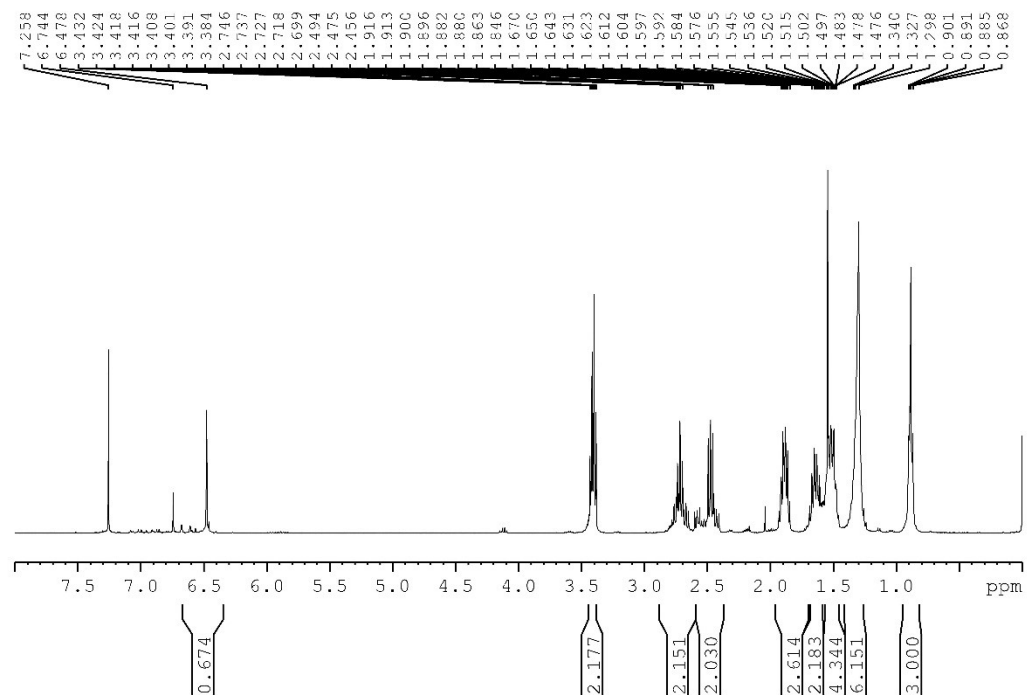


Figure S2: ^1H NMR spectra of 2-bromo-5-(bromomethyl)-3-hexylthiophene **3**.

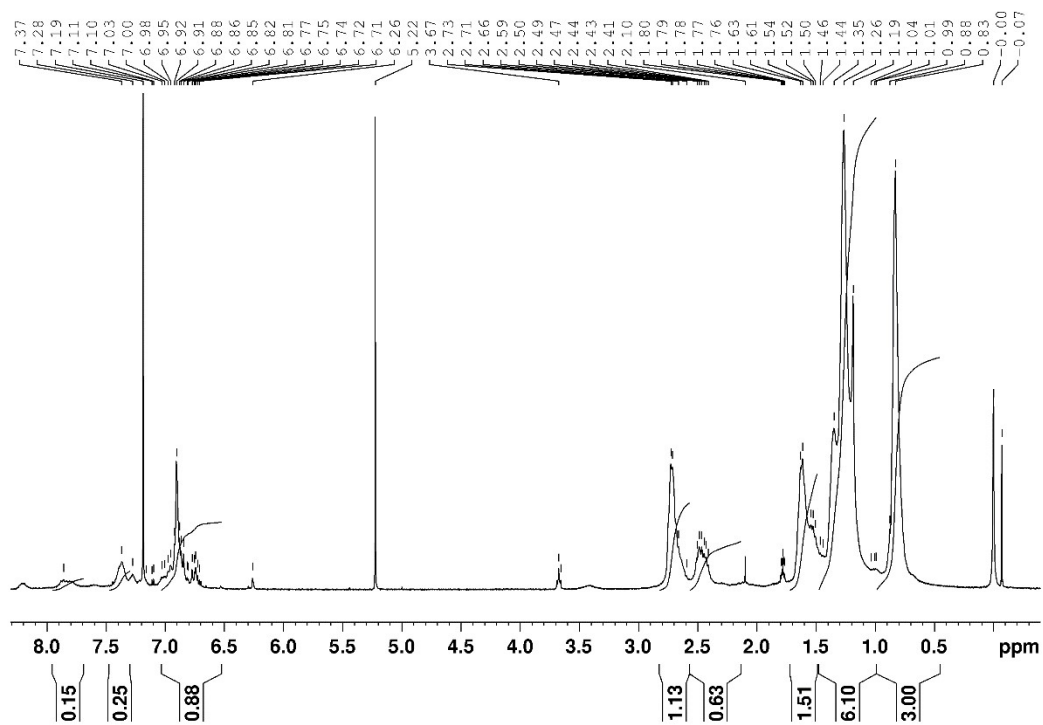


Figure S3: ^1H NMR spectra of O3HT-15.

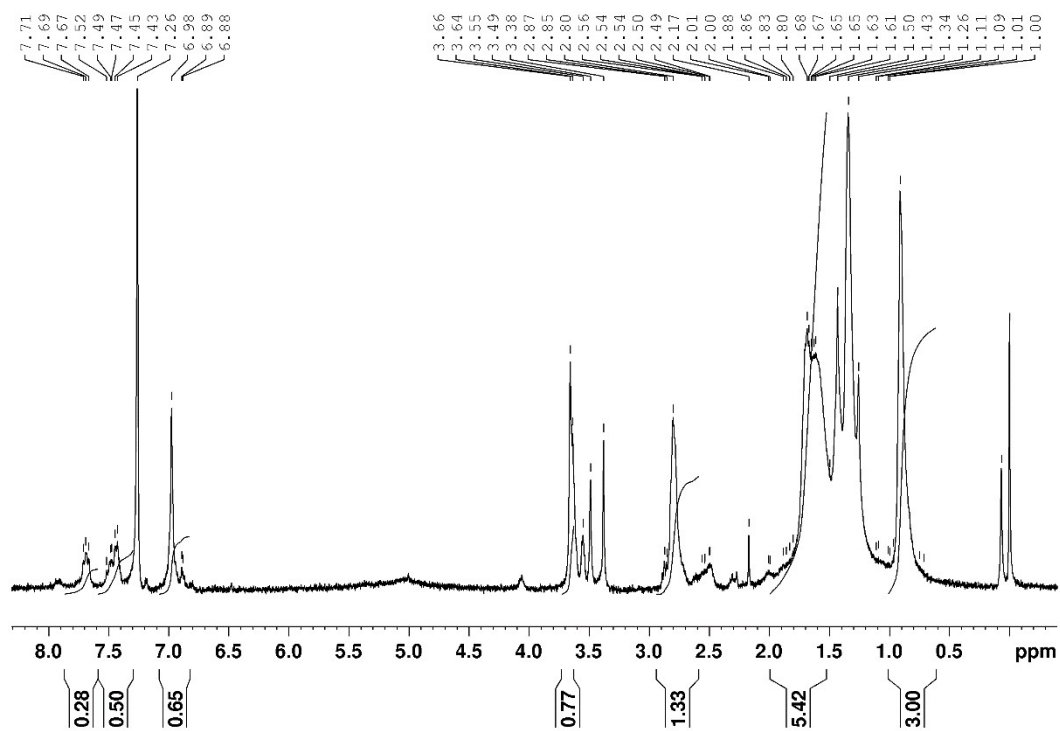


Figure S4: ^1H NMR spectra of O3HT-30.

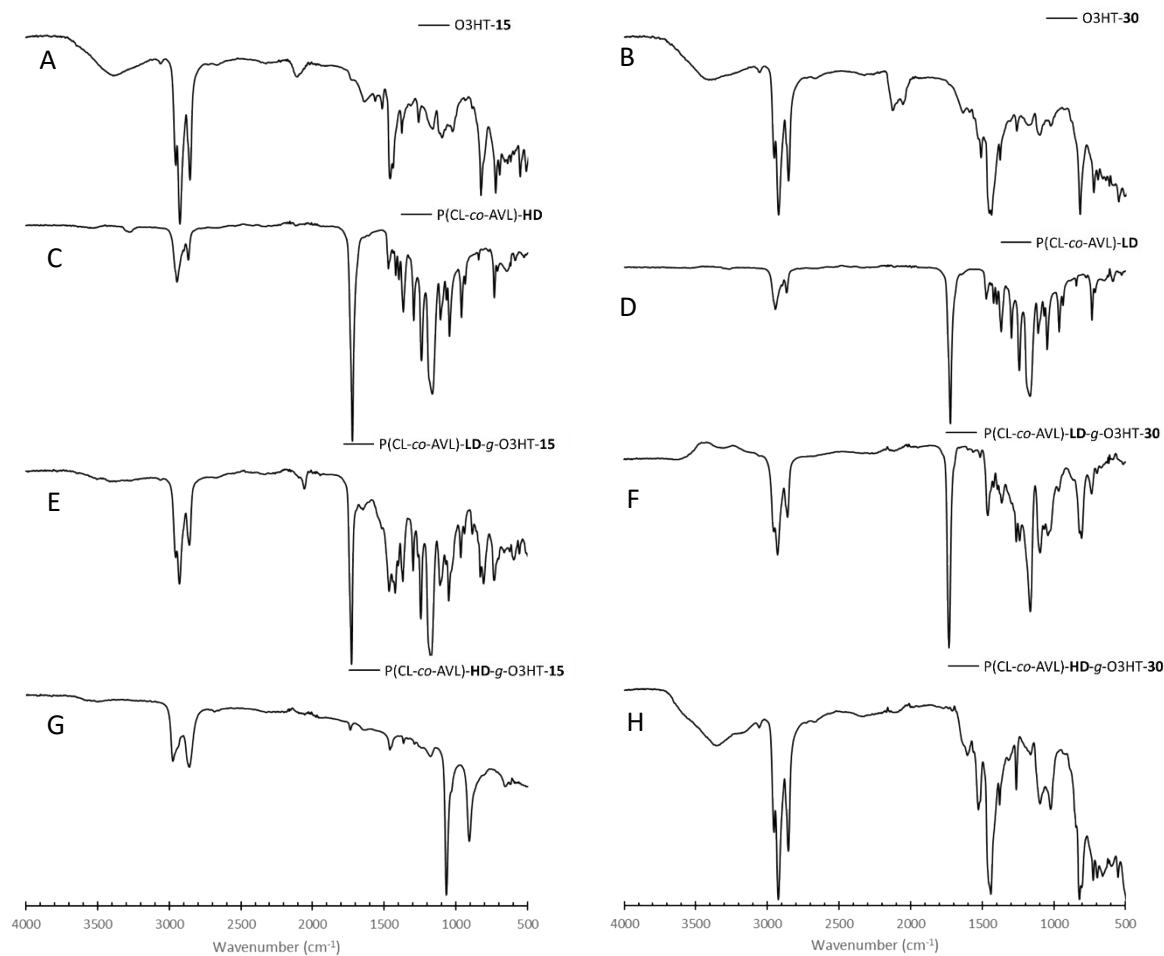


Figure S5: Normalized FT-IR spectra of O3HT-15 (A), O3HT-30 (B), P(CL-co-AVL)-LD (C), P(CL-co-AVL)-HD (D), P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-15 (E), P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-15 (F), P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-30 (G) and P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-30 (H).

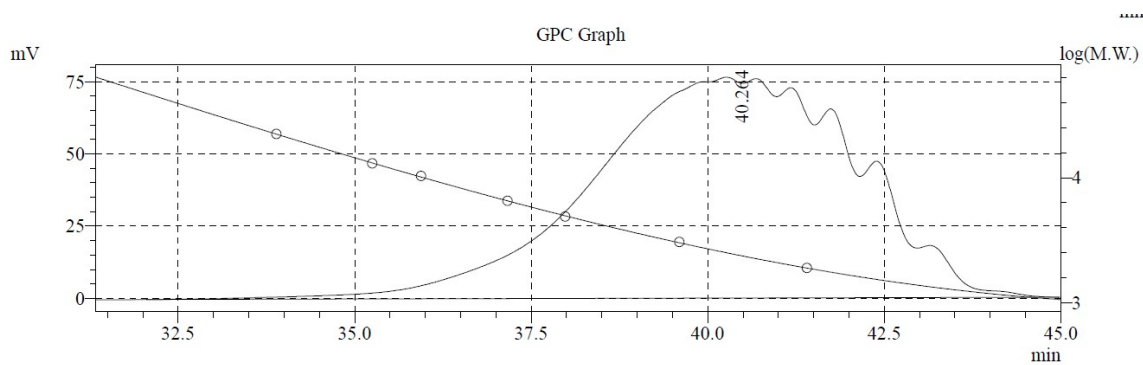


Figure S6: GPC trace of O3HT-15

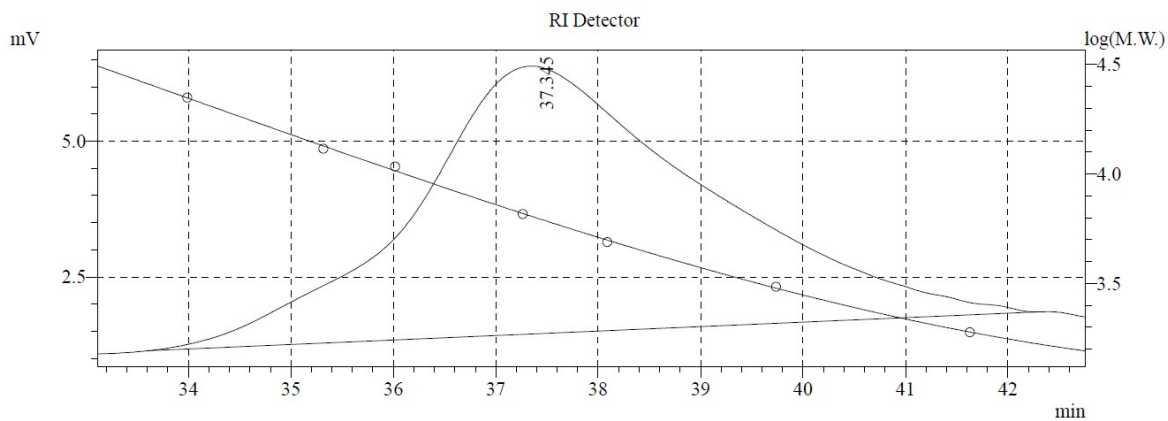
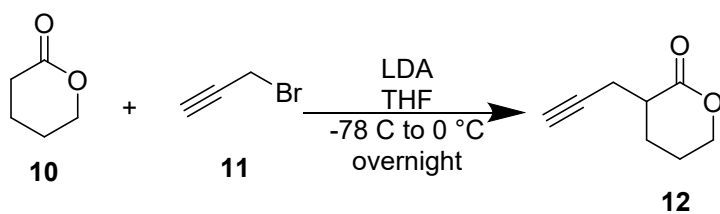


Figure S7: GPC trace of O3HT-30



Scheme S2: Synthesis of 3-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one **12** (alkyne-valerolactone).

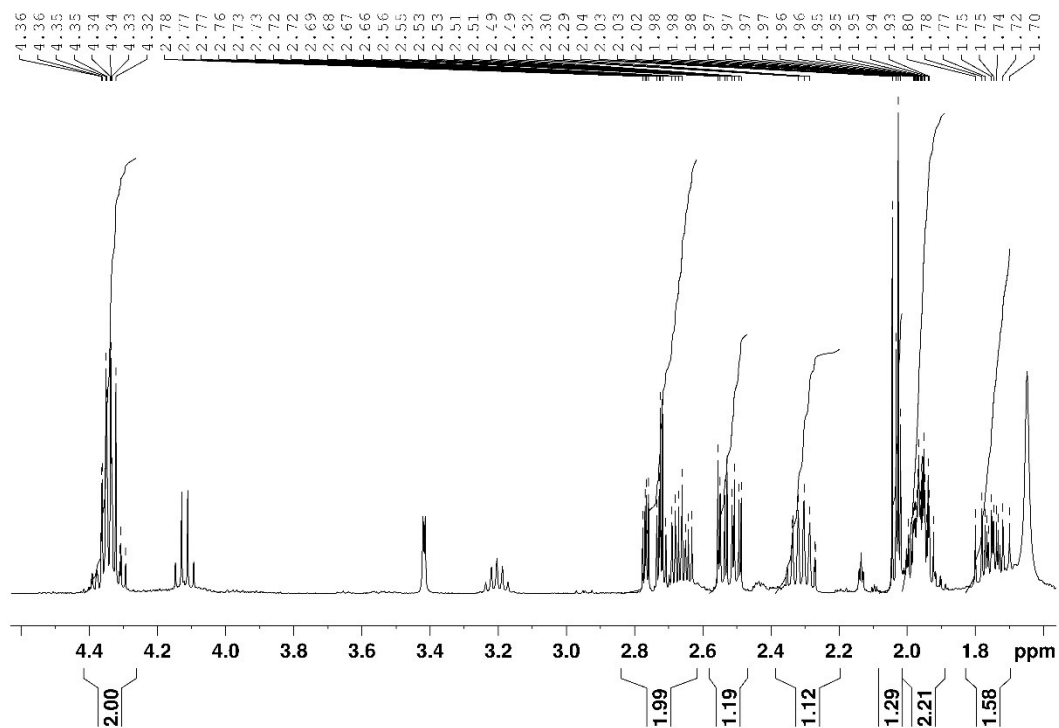
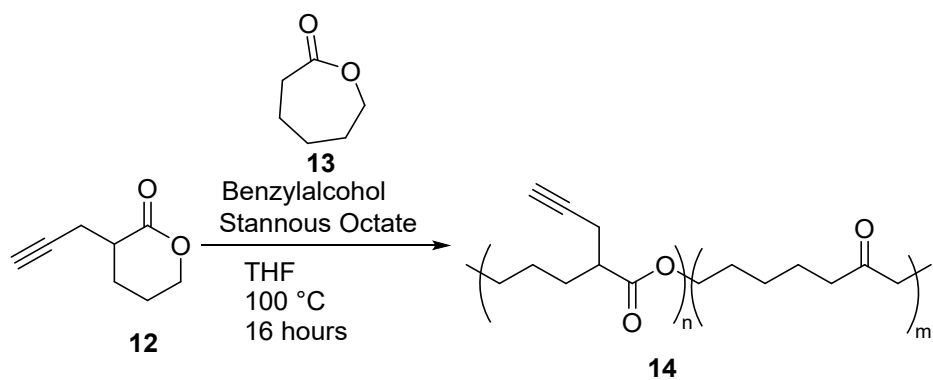


Figure S8: ^1H NMR spectra of alkyne-valerolactone **12**.



Scheme S3: Synthesis of P(CL-co-AVL) **14**.

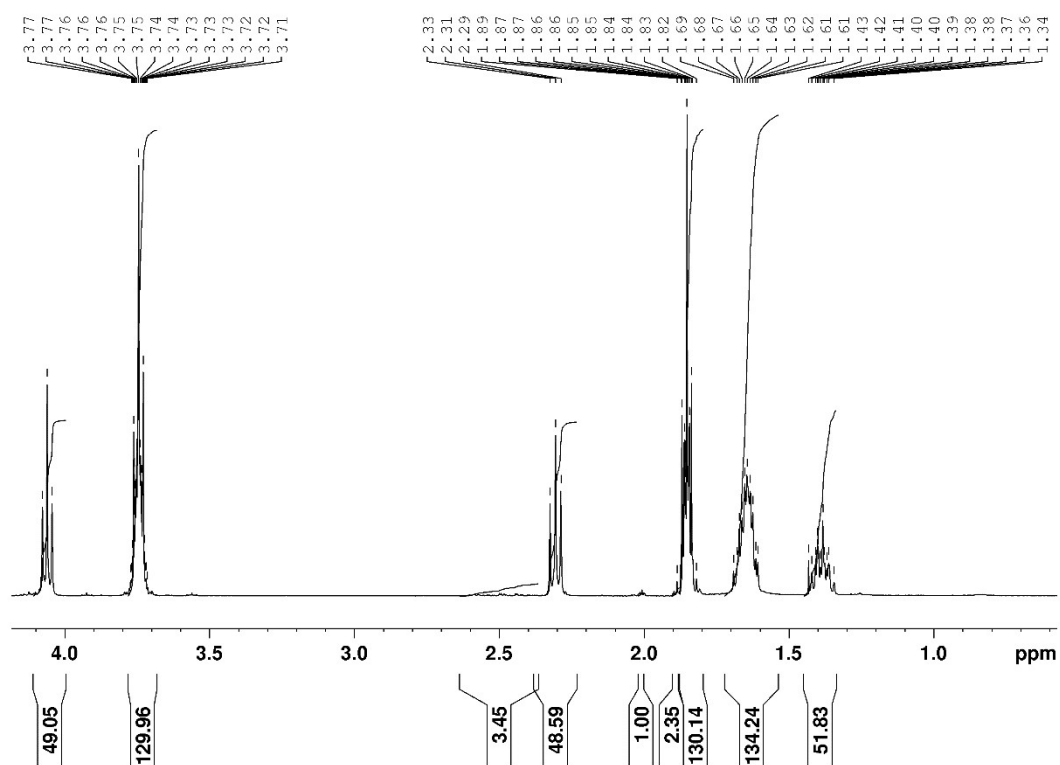


Figure S9: ¹H NMR spectra P(CL-co-AVL)-LD.

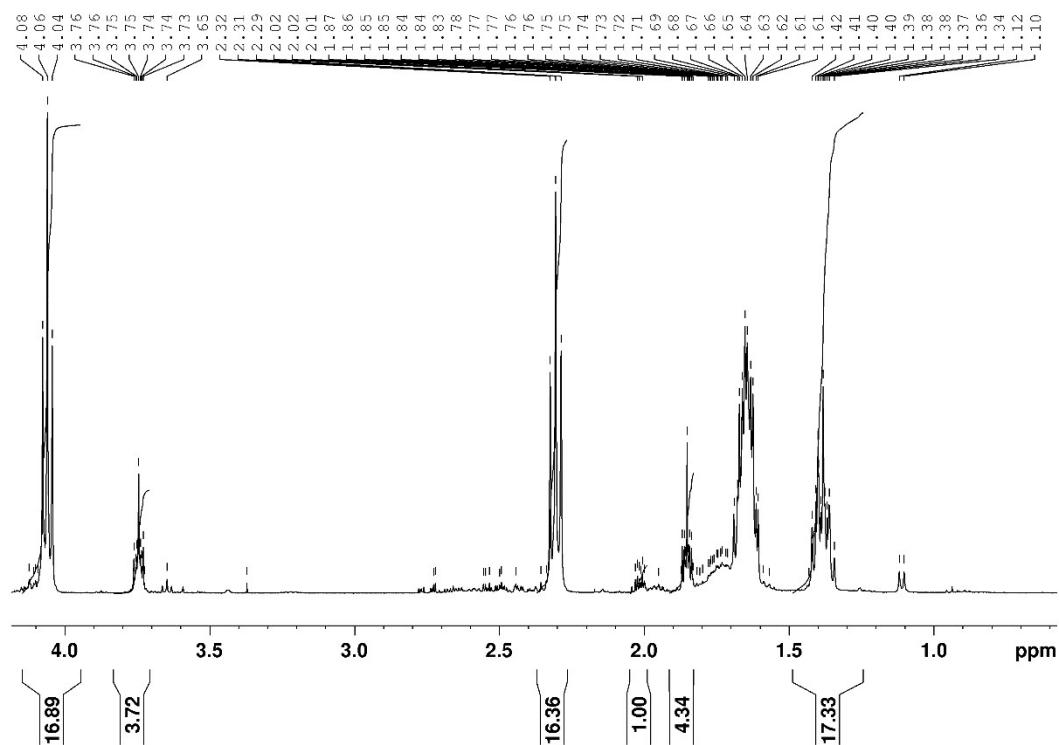


Figure S10: ^1H NMR spectra of P(CL-co-AVL)-HD.

Table S1: Molecular weight determination of P(CL-co-AVL) using GPC analysis.

Polymer	M_n (Da)	M_w (Da)	M_z (Da)	\bar{D}	Length (mers)
P(CL-co-AVL)-LD	30640	38685	45999	1.26	340
P(CL-co-AVL)-HD	8631	11405	14695	1.32	103

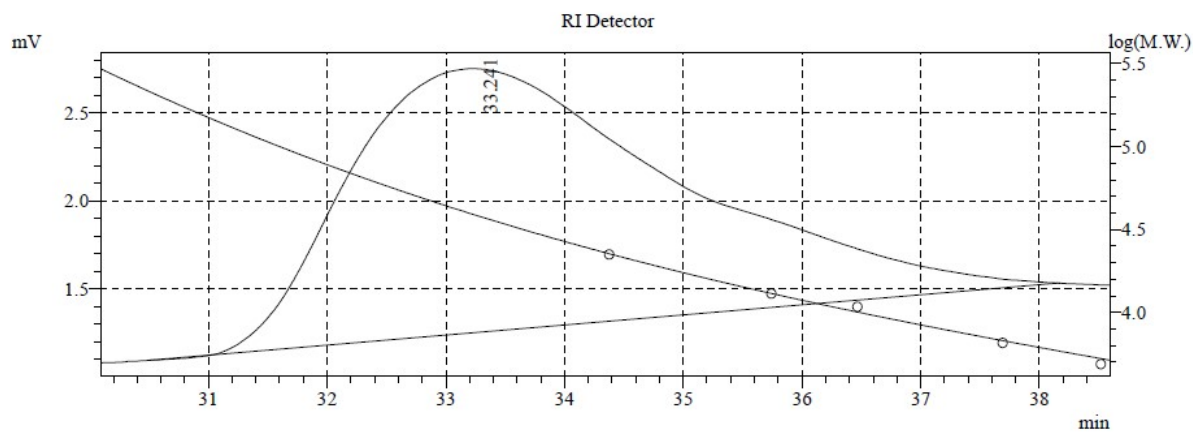


Figure S11: GPC trace of P(CL-co-AVL)-LD.

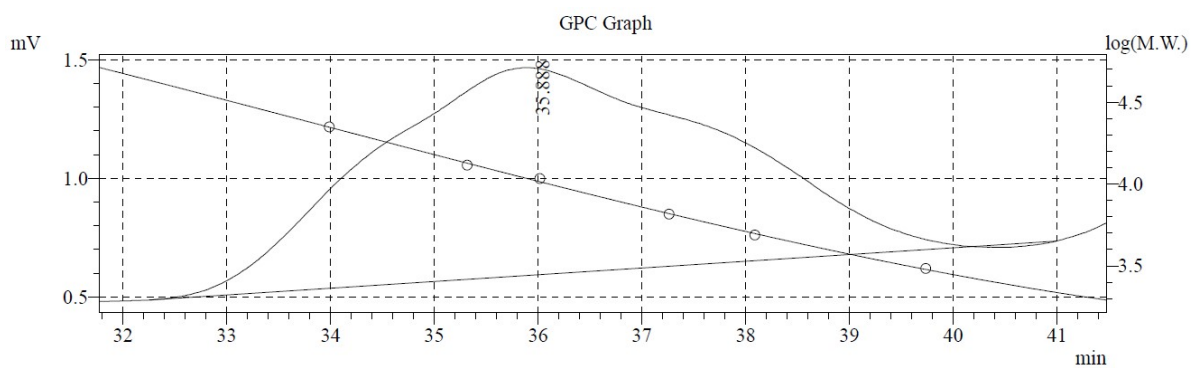


Figure S12: GPC trace of P(CL-co-AVL)-HD.

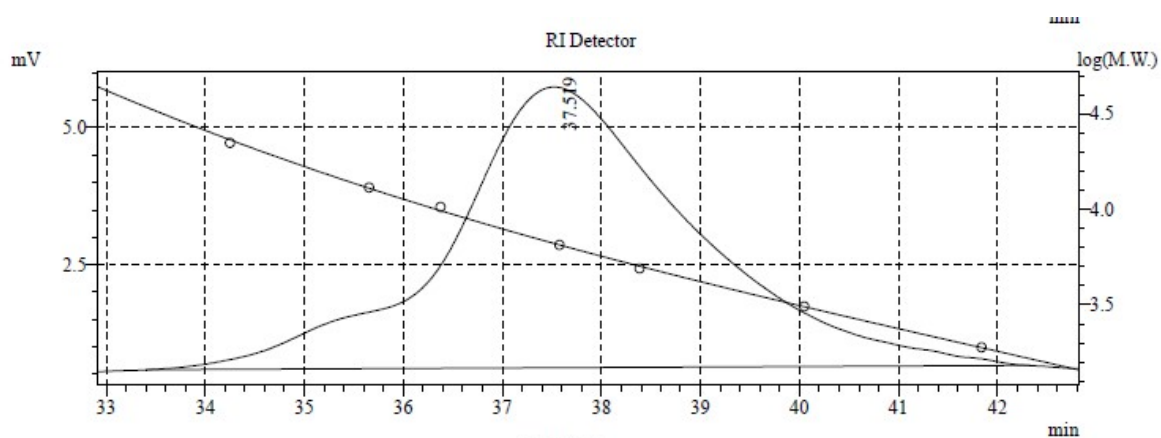


Figure S13: GPC trace of P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-15.

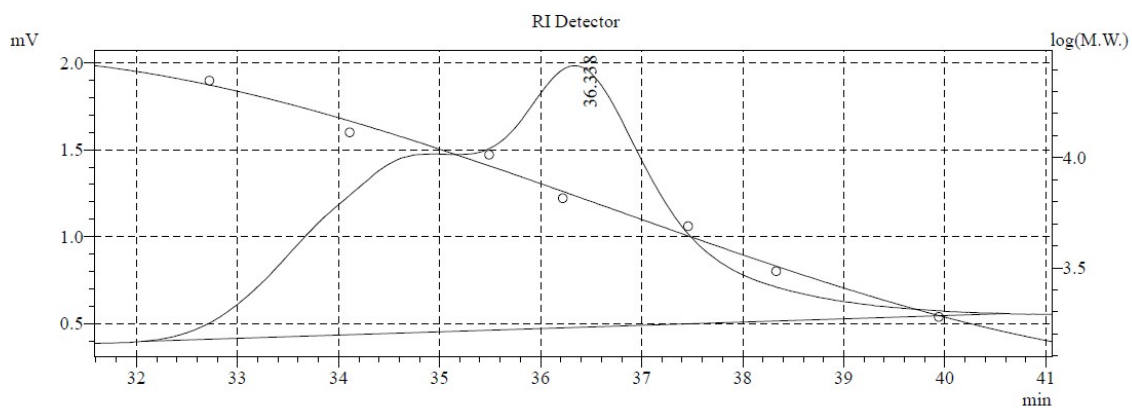


Figure S14: GPC trace of P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-15.

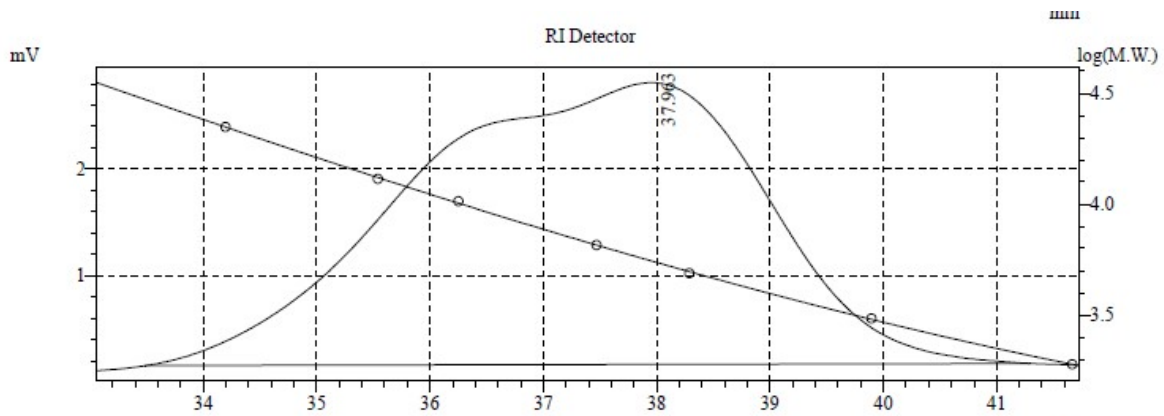


Figure S15: GPC trace of P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-30.

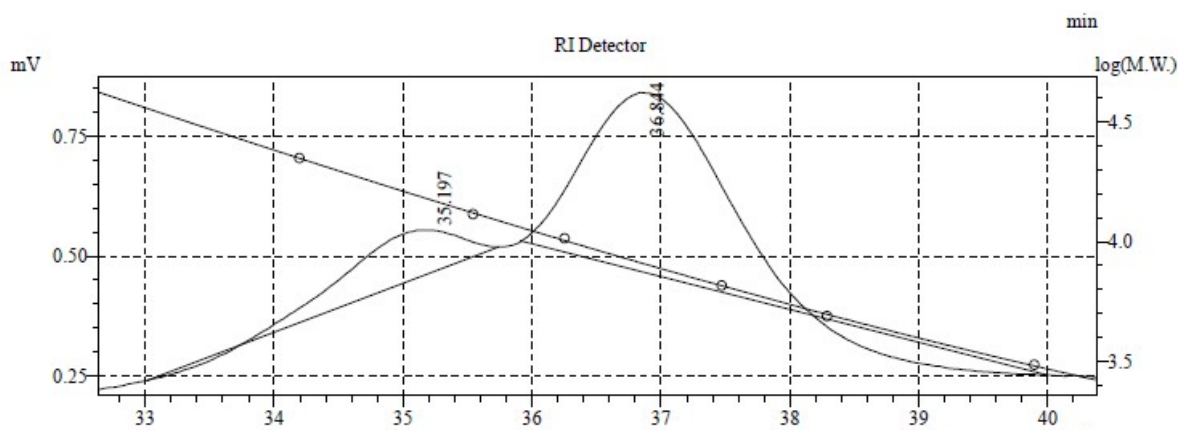


Figure S16: GPC trace of P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-30.

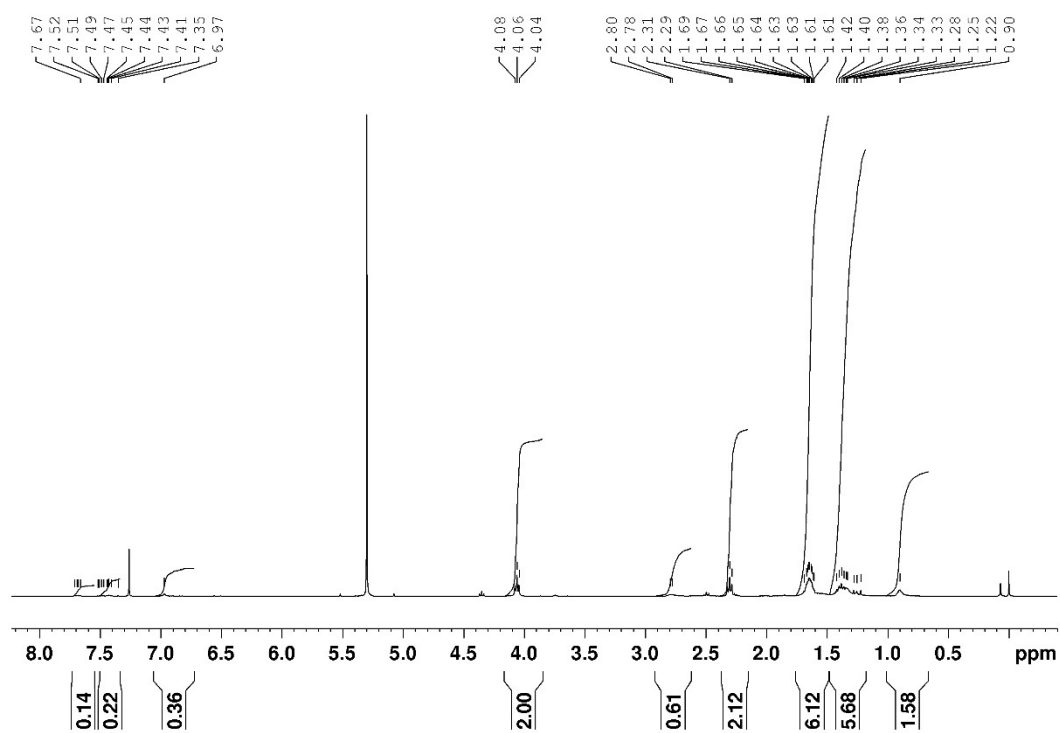


Figure S17: ^1H NMR spectra of P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-15.

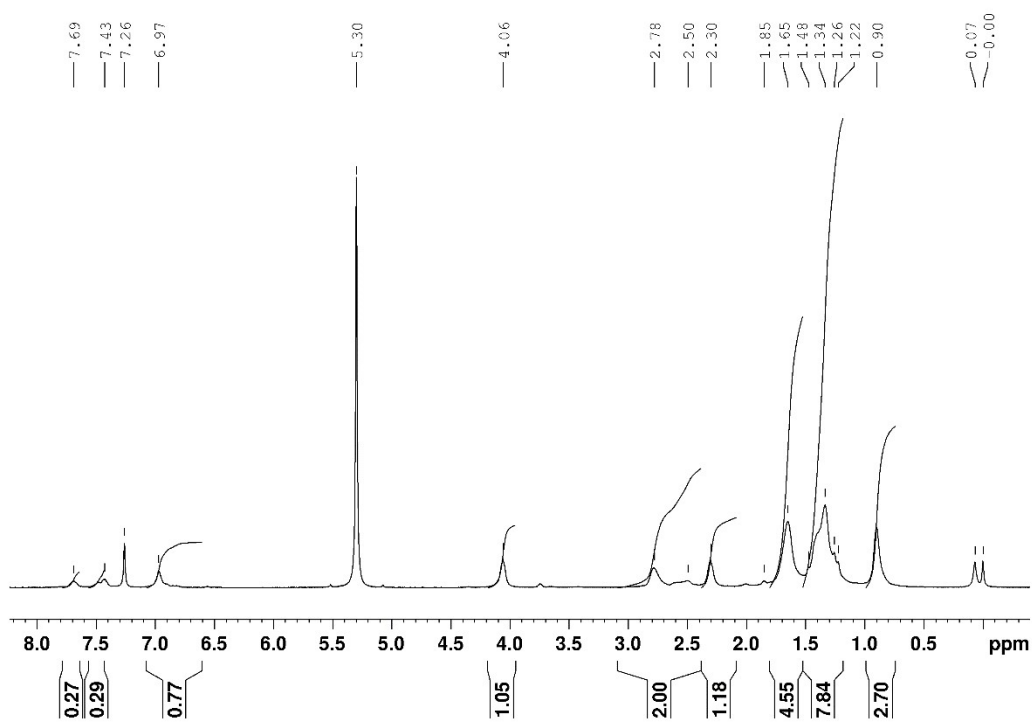


Figure S18: ^1H NMR spectra of P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-15.

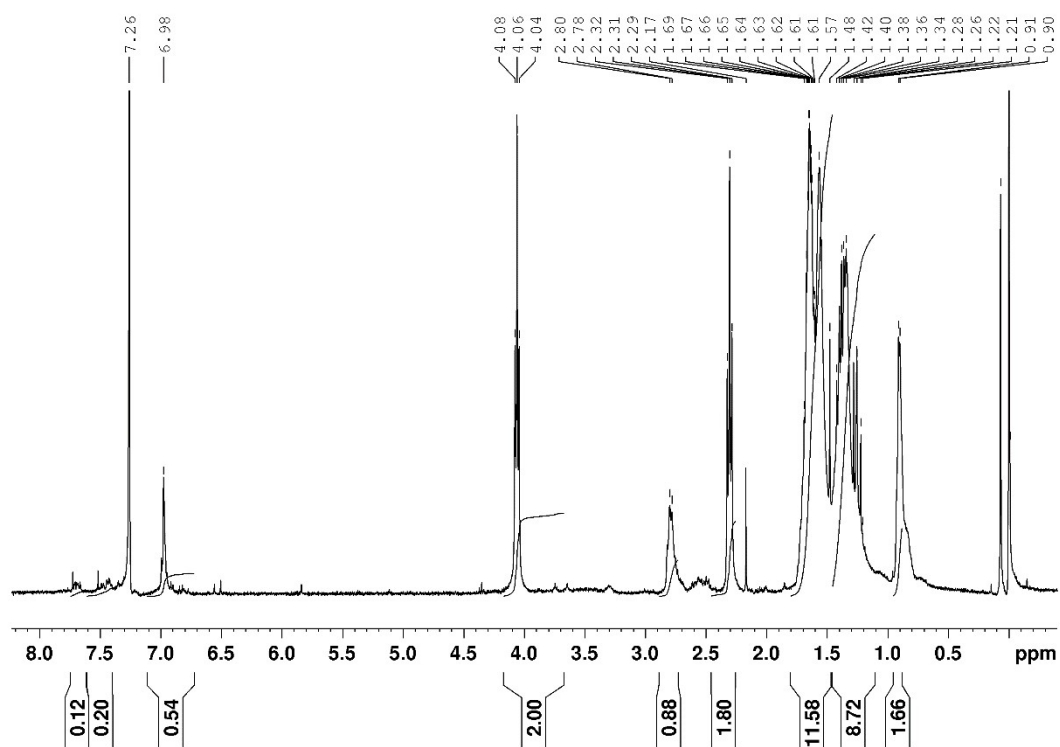


Figure S19: ^1H NMR spectra of P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-30.

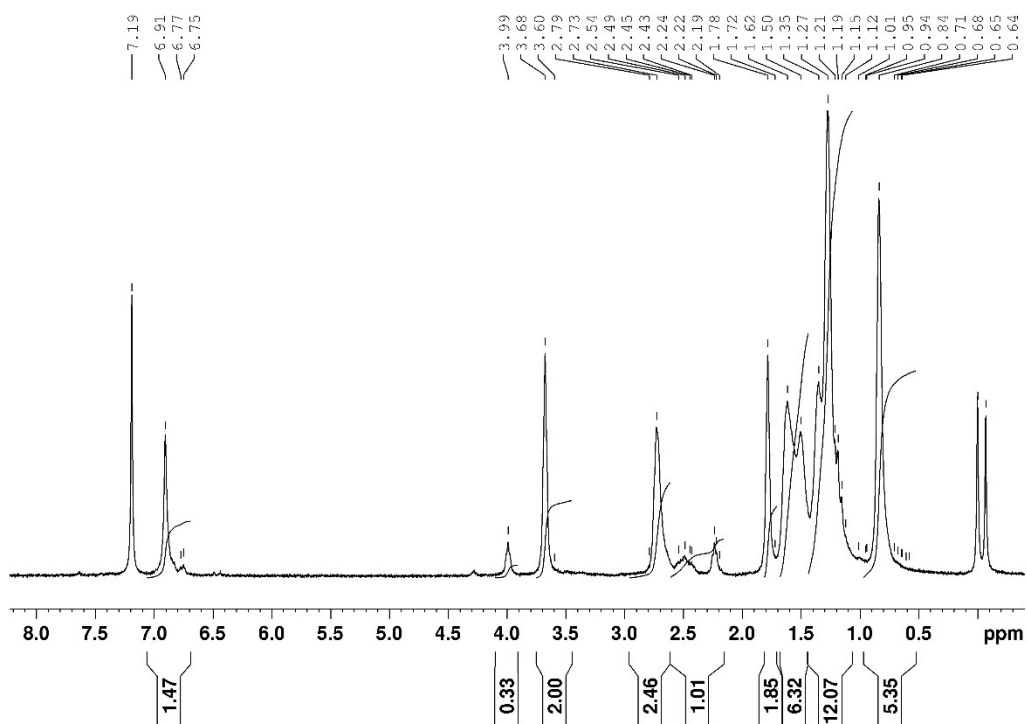


Figure S20: ^1H NMR spectra of P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-30.

Table S2: Conductivity (measured by 4-point probe method) and film thicknesses of the grafted P(CL-co-AVL)-g-O3HTs films on glass substrates ($n \geq 3$).

Sample	Film thickness (μm)	Conductivity (mS cm^{-1})
P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-15	49 ± 5.5	$(2.86 \pm 0.245) \times 10^{-2}$
P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-15	52 ± 7.7	0.83 ± 0.07
P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-30	60 ± 4.1	0.87 ± 0.35
P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-30	47 ± 8.6	1.18 ± 0.41

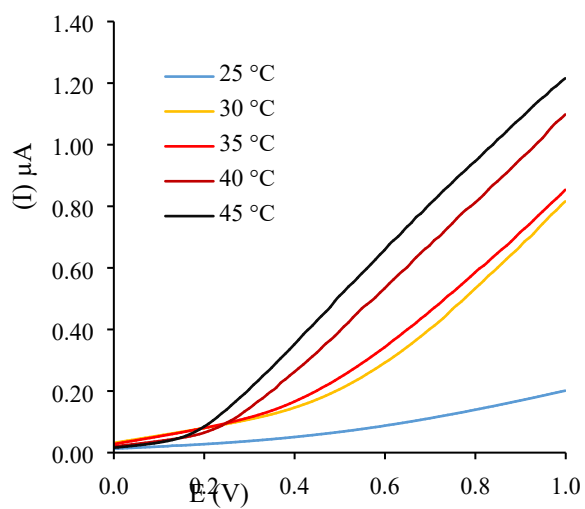


Figure S21. I - V curves (from 0 V to 1 V) of P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-30 at temperatures between room temperature (25 °C) and 45 °C.

Table S3: Temperature-dependent conductivities of the grafted P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-30 calculated using the slopes from the linear parts of the curves in Figure S21.

Temperature, °C	Conductivity (mS cm ⁻¹)
25	0.02
30	0.85
35	0.89
40	0.93
45	1.00

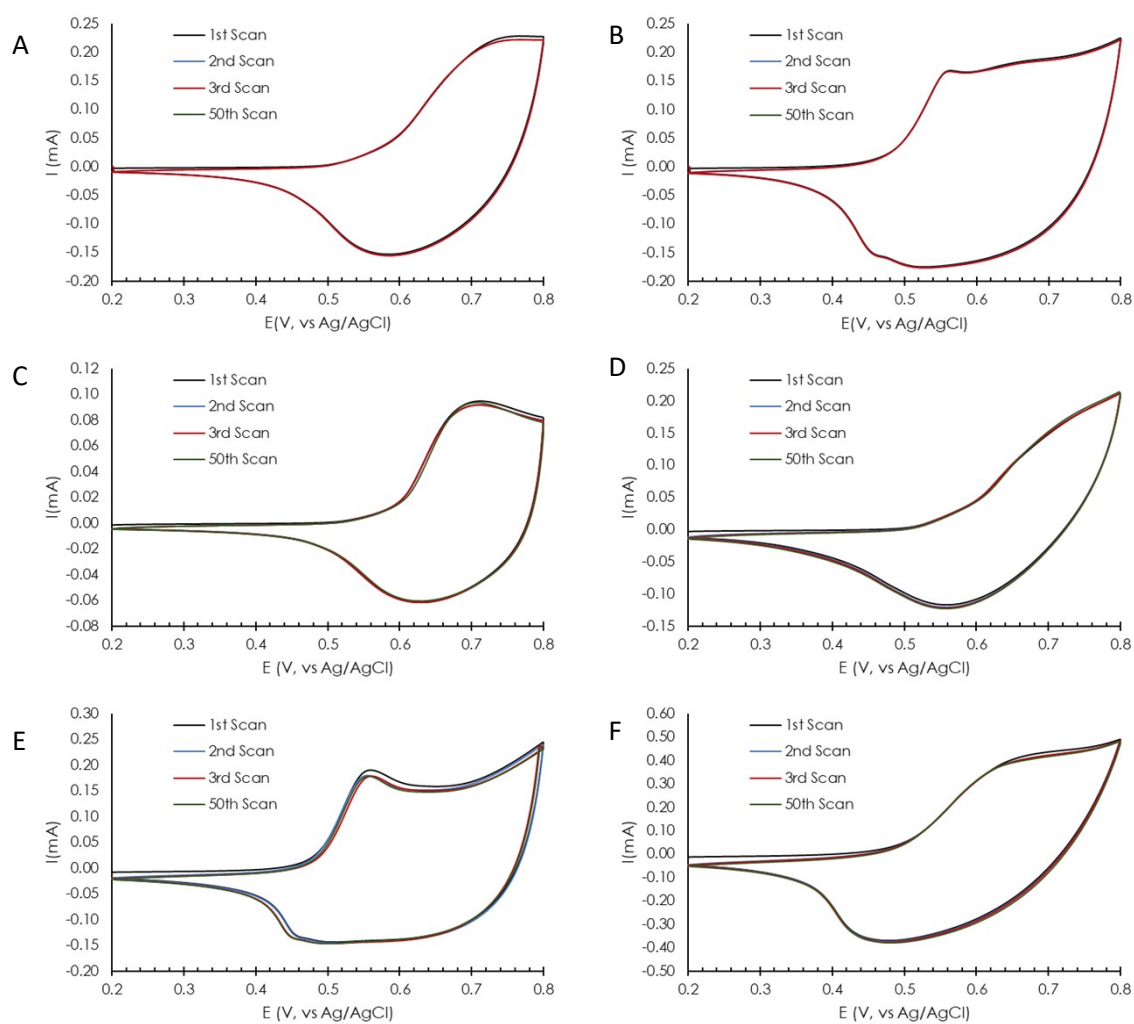


Figure S22: Cyclic Voltammograms of O3HT-15 (A), O3HT-30 (B), P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-15 (C), P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-15 (D), P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-30 (E) and P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-30 (F), cycled 50 cycles, with 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 50th scan shown.

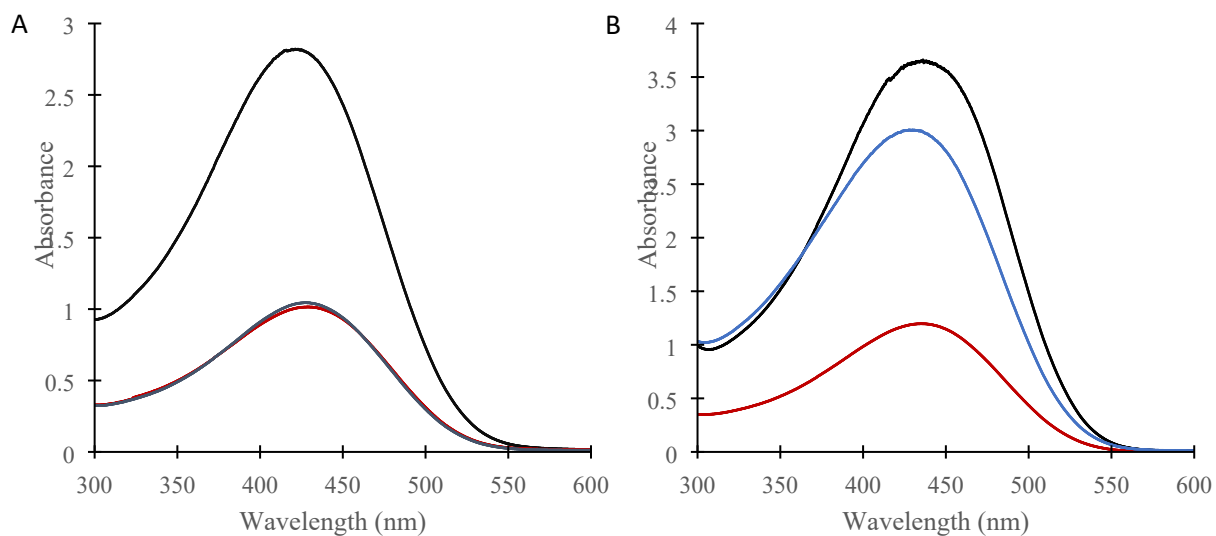


Figure S23: UV-Vis adsorption spectra of A) O3HT-15 (black), P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-15 (red) and P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-15 (blue) and B) O3HT-30 (black), P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-30 (red) and P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-30 (blue) in THF at 0.1 mg/mL.

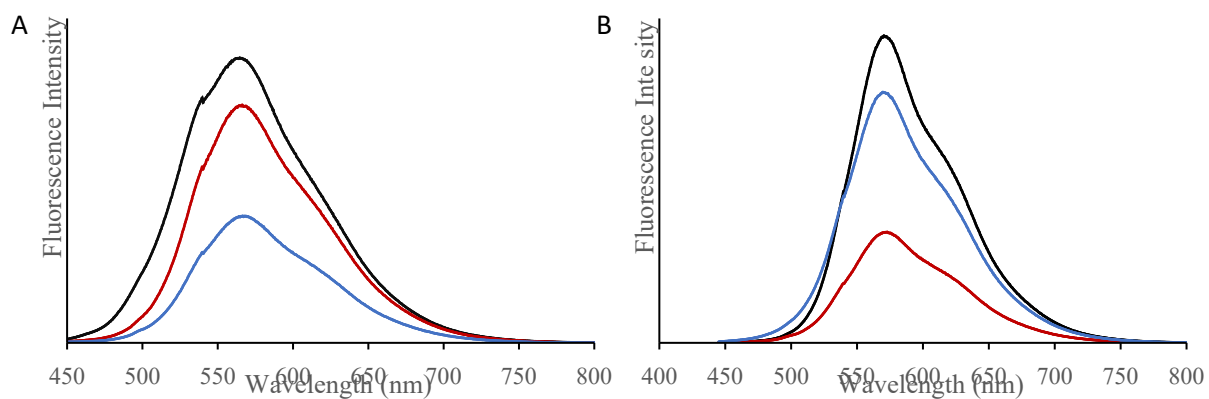


Figure S24: Fluorescence emission spectra of A) O3HT-15 (black), P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-15 (red) and P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-15 (blue) and B) O3HT-30 (black), P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-30 (red) and P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-15 (blue) in THF at 5 μ g/mL.

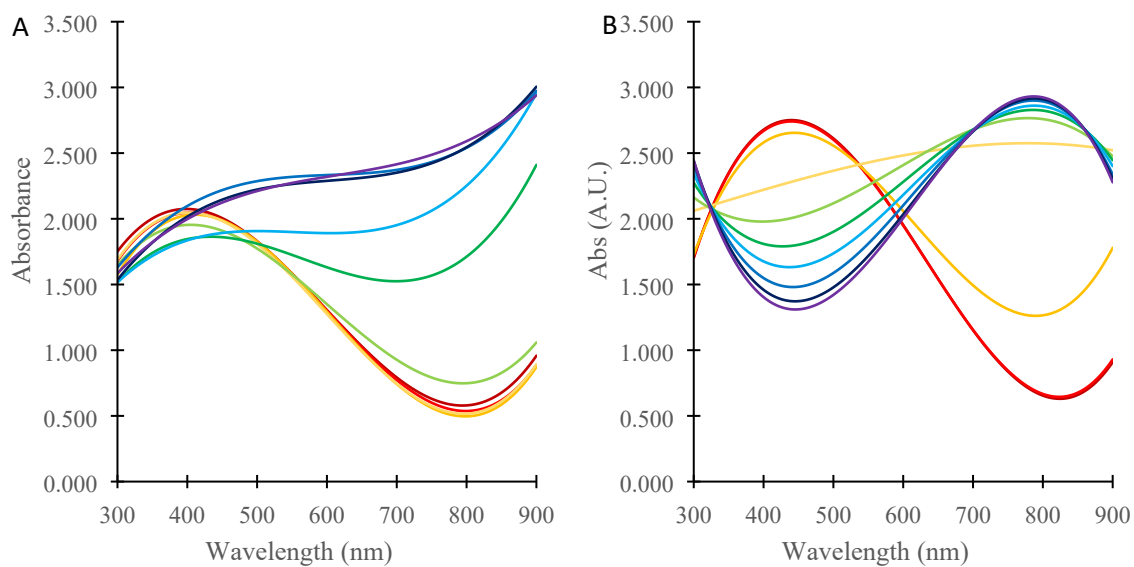


Figure S25: SEC spectra of O3HT-15 (A) and O3HT-30 (B) drop casted on ITO glass slides, between 0.1 V to 1.0 V, smoothed with 3rd Order Polynomial Fit.

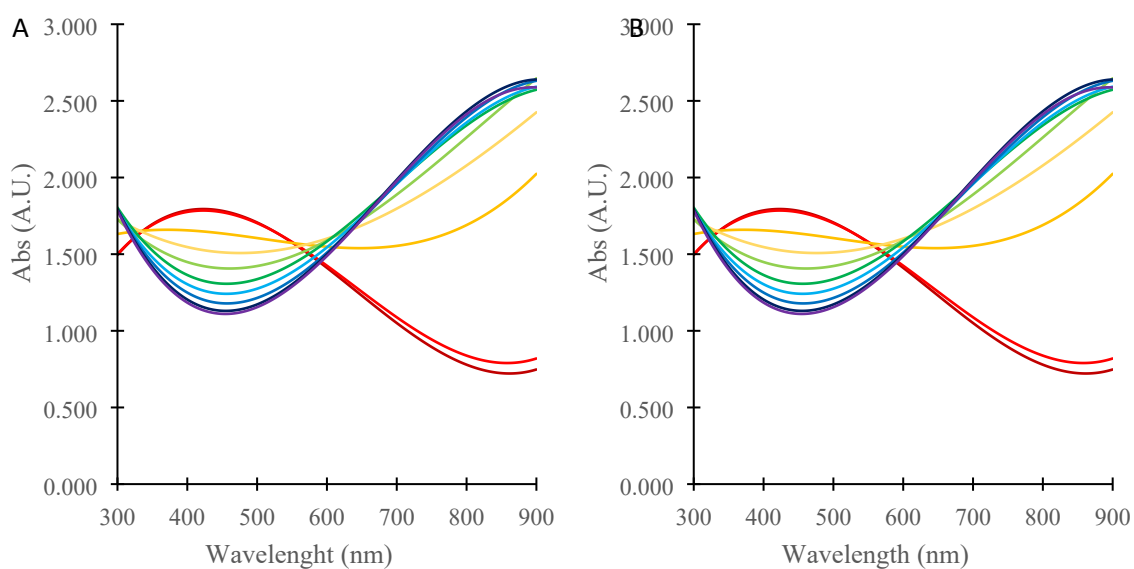


Figure S26: SEC spectra of P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-30 (A) and P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-30 (B) drop casted on ITO glass slides, between 0.1 V to 1.0 V, smoothed with 3rd Order Polynomial Fit.

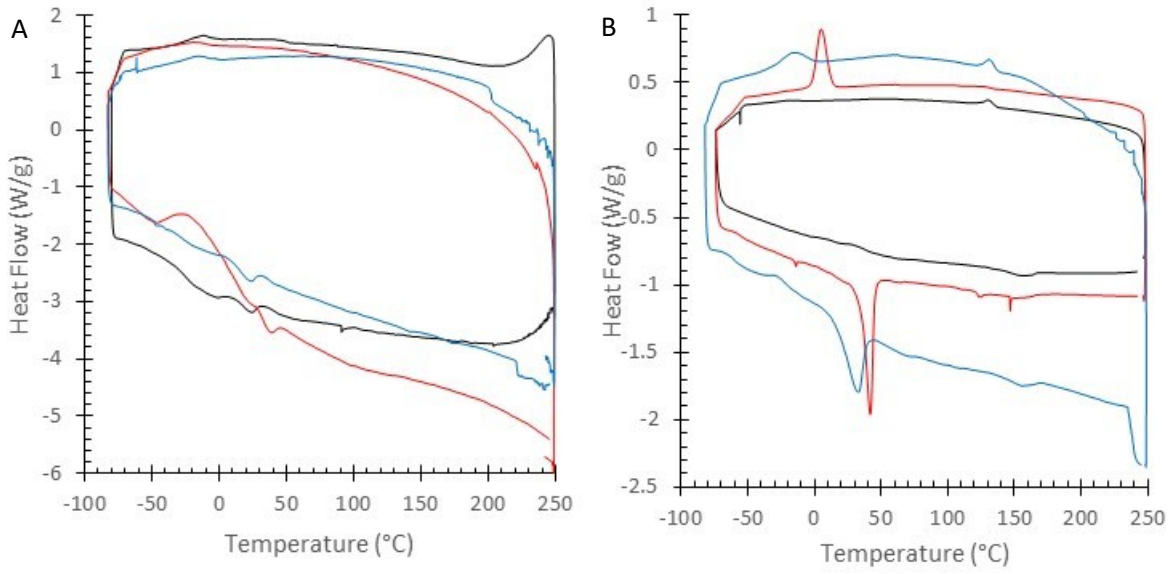


Figure S27: A) DSC curves of O3HT-15, P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-15 (red) and P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-15. B) DSC curves of O3HT-30, P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-30 (red) and P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-30 (blue).

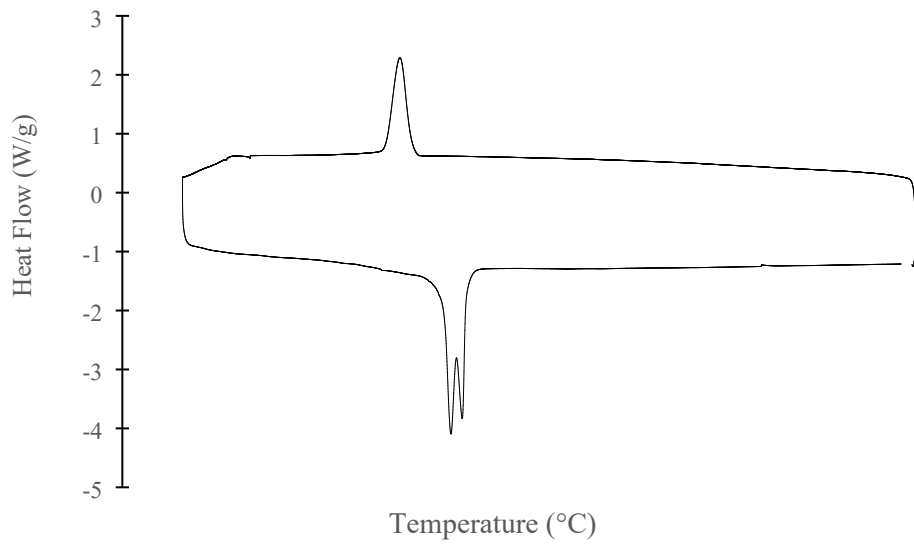


Figure S28: DSC scan of P(CL-co-AVL)-LD.

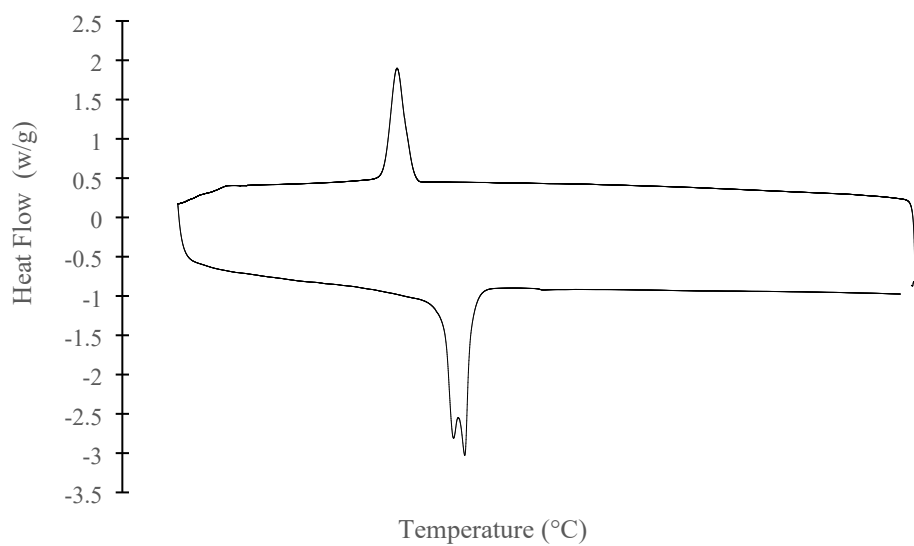


Figure S29: DSC scan of P(CL-co-AVL)-HD.

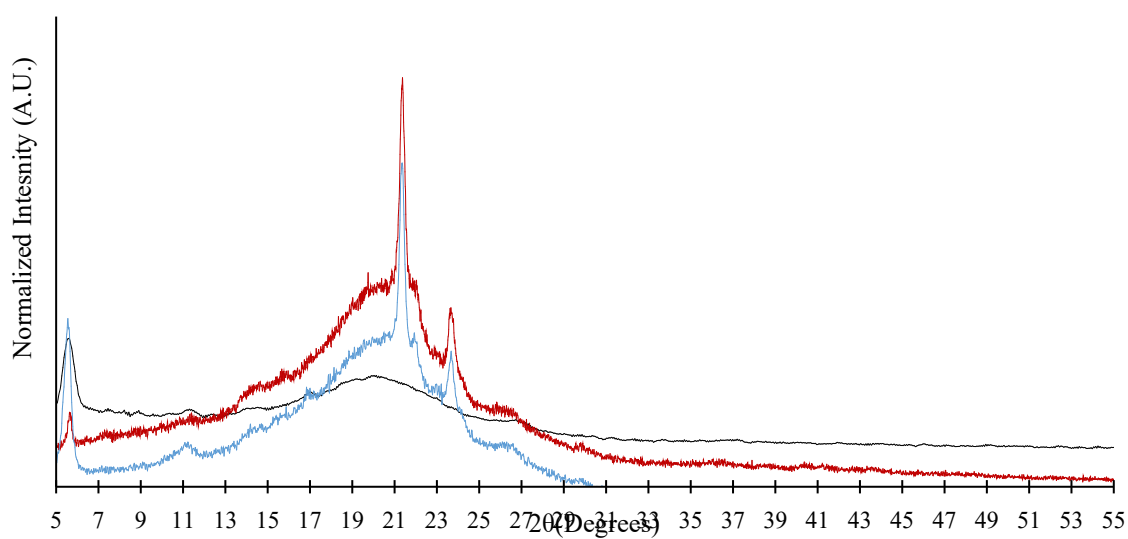


Figure S30: Normalized XRD spectra of O3HT-15 (black), P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-15 (red) and P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-15 (blue)

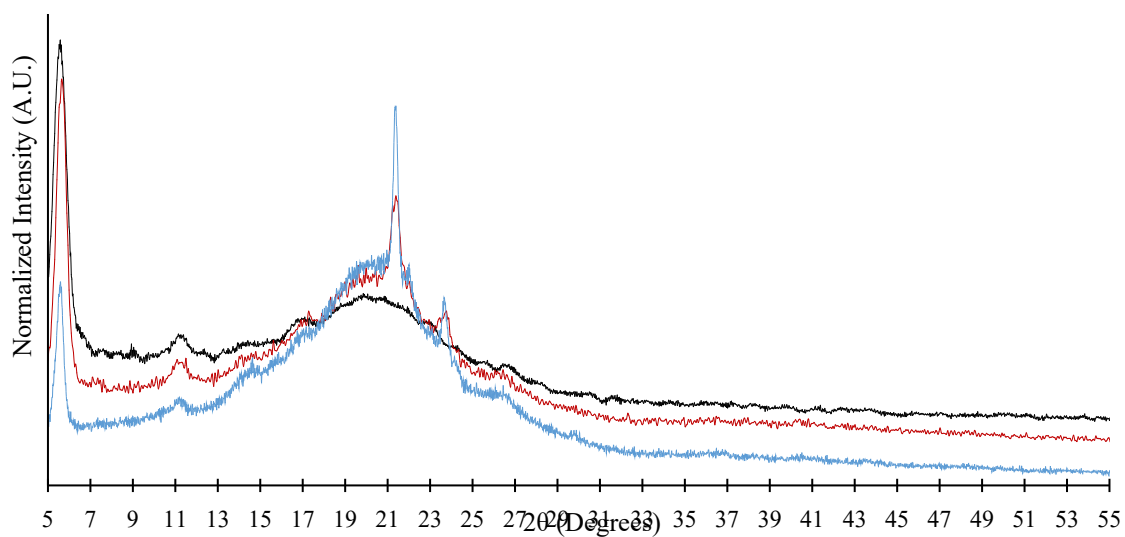


Figure S31: Normalized XRD spectra of O3HT-30 (black), P(CL-co-AVL)-LD-g-O3HT-30 (red) and P(CL-co-AVL)-HD-g-O3HT-30.

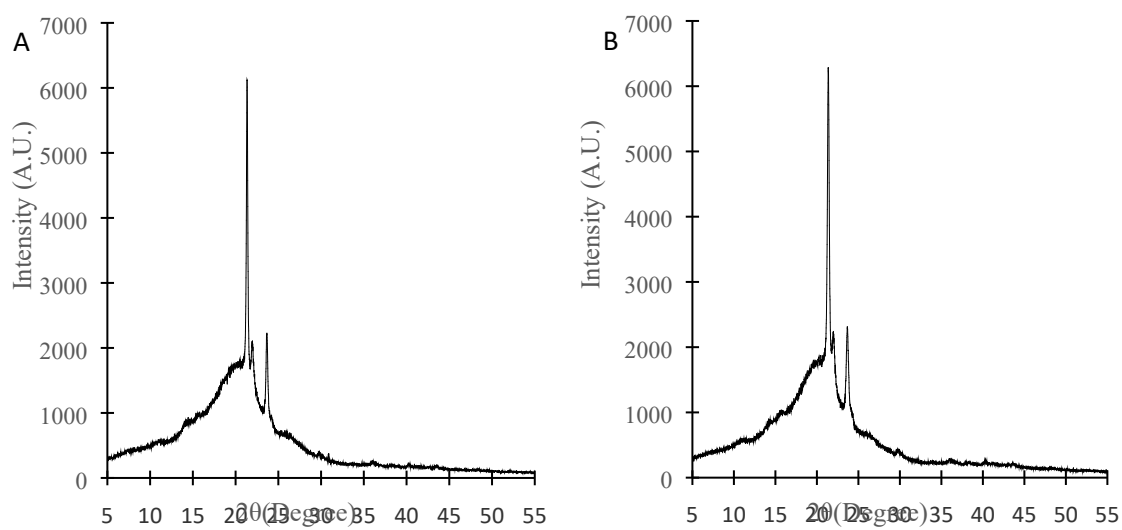


Figure S32: XRD spectra of (A) P(CL-co-AVL)-HD and (B) P(CL-co-AVL)-LD.

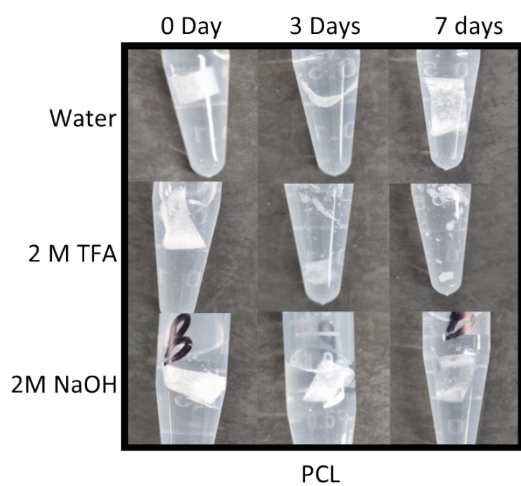


Figure S33: Optical photographs of PCL in water, 2 M TFA and 2 M NaOH at 0, 3 and 7 days.

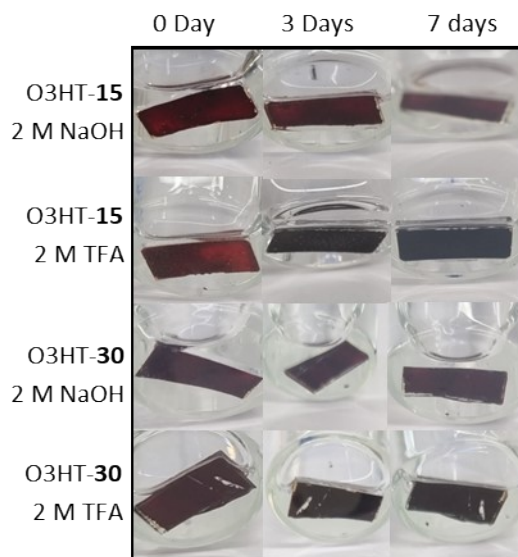


Figure S34: Optical photographs of O3HT-15 and O3HT-30 in 2 M TFA and 2 M NaOH at 0, 3 and 7 days.

Table S4. Conducting polymer-based transient electronic materials

Polymer		Electrical Properties	Degradation Method	Ref
P(CL-co-AVL)-g-O3HT	Degradable backbone	5.6 mS cm ⁻¹	Acid, base and enzymatic degradation	This study
Gelatin-graft-poly(3-hexylthiophene)	Degradable backbone	1.65 ± 0.02 × 10 ⁻⁷ S/cm	enzymatic degradation	1
PPy/PVDF (polyvinylidene fluoride)-based nanofibers	Composite	12 to 24 S/cm	Acetone dissolution	2
PPy/chitosan	Composite	1 × 10 ⁻² S/cm	Lysozyme enzymatic degradation and <i>in vivo</i> degradation in rats	3
PEDOT:PSS/montmorillonite	Composite	8 to 16 S/cm	Ingestion by superworms	4
PEDOT/carboxymethyl chitosan	Composite	4.68 × 10 ⁻³ S/cm	Enzymatic degradation lysozyme	5
Oligoaniline-based electroactive blocks	Degradable backbone	8.34 × 10 ⁻⁸ S/cm	Enzymatic degradation	6
Quaterthiophene-co-adipic acid polyester (QAPE)	Degradable backbone	10 ⁻⁴ S/cm	Enzymatic degradation	7
Polyester organogels with aniline oligomers	Degradable backbone	1.03 × 10 ⁻⁵ S/cm	Acid hydrolysis	8,9
Poly(diketopyrrolopyrrole-phenylene diamine) (PDPP-PD)	Degradable semiconductor	Charge mobility 0.03 cm ² /V·s	Acid-mediated degradation	10,11
Poly(naphthalene diimide-co-(E,E)-N,N'-1,4-phenylenebis[1-(2-thienyl)methanimine]) (PNDIT2/IM-f)	Degradable semiconductor	electron mobility (μe) 0.04 cm ² V ⁻¹ s ⁻¹	Acid hydrolysis	12
Water-soluble transient conjugated polymer based on polypyrrole (PPY)	Soluble copolymer	Capacitance value 73 mF/g	Water soluble	13

References

- 1 X. Sun, E. W. C. Chan, Q. Chen, N. Kirby, J. Yang, J. P. Mata, R. L. Kingston, D. Barker, L. Domigan and J. Travas-Sejdic, *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces*, 2024, **16**, 23872–23884.
- 2 S. Veeralingam and S. Badhulika, *ACS Appl. Bio Mater.*, 2021, **4**, 14–23.
- 3 Y. Wan, A. Yu, H. Wu, Z. Wang and D. Wen, *J. Mater. Sci. Mater. Med.*, 2005, **16**, 1017–1028.
- 4 S. Lee, Y. Hong and B. S. Shim, *Adv. Sustain. Syst.*, 2022, **6**, 2100056.
- 5 C. Xu, S. Guan, S. Wang, W. Gong, T. Liu, X. Ma and C. Sun, *Mater. Sci. Eng. C*, 2018, **84**, 32–43.
- 6 J. G. Hardy, D. J. Mouser, N. Arroyo-Currás, S. Geissler, J. K. Chow, L. Nguy, J. M. Kim and C. E. Schmidt, *J. Mater. Chem. B*, 2014, **2**, 6809–6822.
- 7 N. K. E. Guimard, J. L. Sessler and C. E. Schmidt, *Macromolecules*, 2009, **42**, 502–511.
- 8 B. Guo, A. Finne-Wistrand and A.-C. Albertsson, *Macromolecules*, 2011, **44**, 5227–5236.
- 9 B. Guo, A. Finne-Wistrand and A.-C. Albertsson, *J. Polym. Sci. Part Polym. Chem.*, 2011, **49**, 2097–2105.
- 10 T. Lei, M. Guan, J. Liu, H.-C. Lin, R. Pfattner, L. Shaw, A. F. McGuire, T.-C. Huang, L. Shao, K.-T. Cheng, J. B.-H. Tok and Z. Bao, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 2017, **114**, 5107–5112.
- 11 H. Tran, V. R. Feig, K. Liu, H.-C. Wu, R. Chen, J. Xu, K. Deisseroth and Z. Bao, *ACS Cent. Sci.*, 2019, **5**, 1884–1891.
- 12 H. Park, Y. Kim, D. Kim, S. Lee, F. S. Kim and B. J. Kim, *Adv. Funct. Mater.*, 2022, **32**, 2106977.
- 13 J. Moon, V. Diaz, D. Patel, R. Underwood and R. Warren, *Org. Electron.*, 2022, **101**, 106412.