

Electronic Supplementary Information

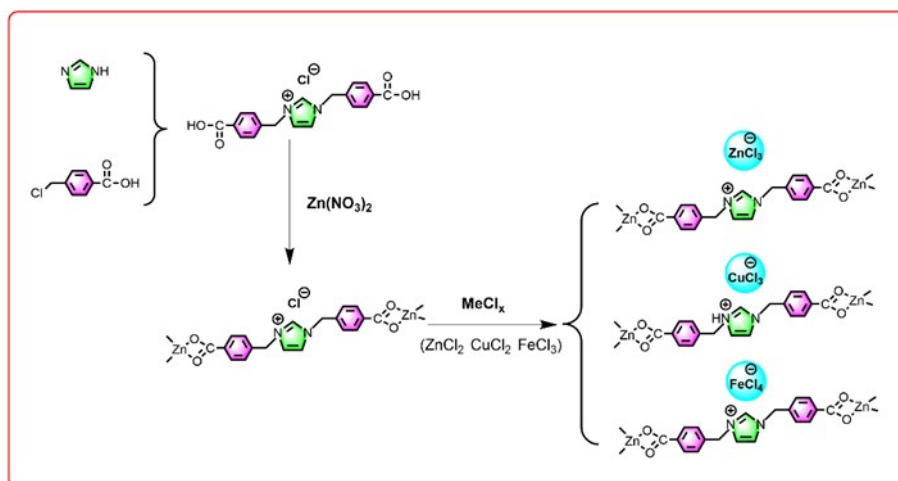
## Synthesis and Characterisation of Polycarbonates from Spent Lithium Battery Electrolytes

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The supporting information includes thirteen pages and fifteen figures.

### General Information



**Fig. S1** Reaction process diagram of ILs catalyst

X-Ray Energy Spectrum Analyzer (XFlash 630M), Bruker, Germany, point scanning analysis (depth of about 1  $\mu m$ ), acceleration voltage of 0 ~ 20 keV ; X-ray diffractometer (ULTIMA) was used. The operating voltage was 45 kV, the current was 40 mA, the anode target material was Cu target,  $K\alpha$  ray radiation, the scanning angle range was 10-80°, and the scanning speed was 5°/min.



Fig. S2. X-Ray Energy Spectrum Analyzer of catalysis.

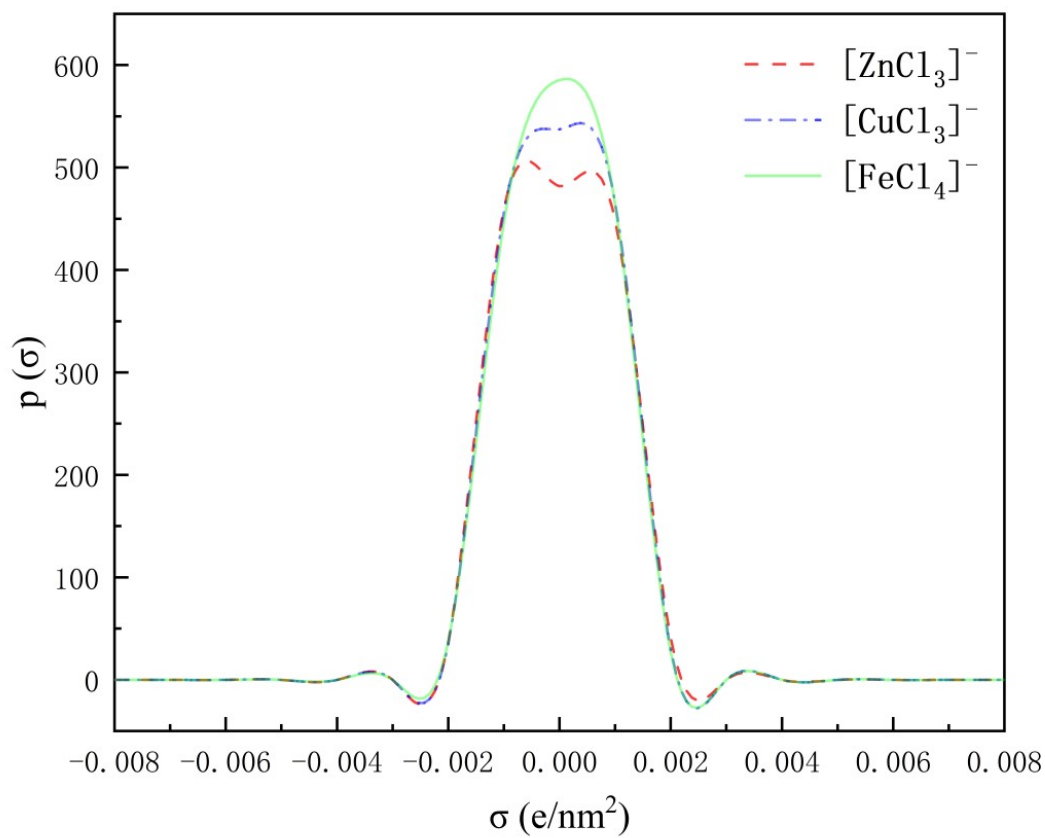
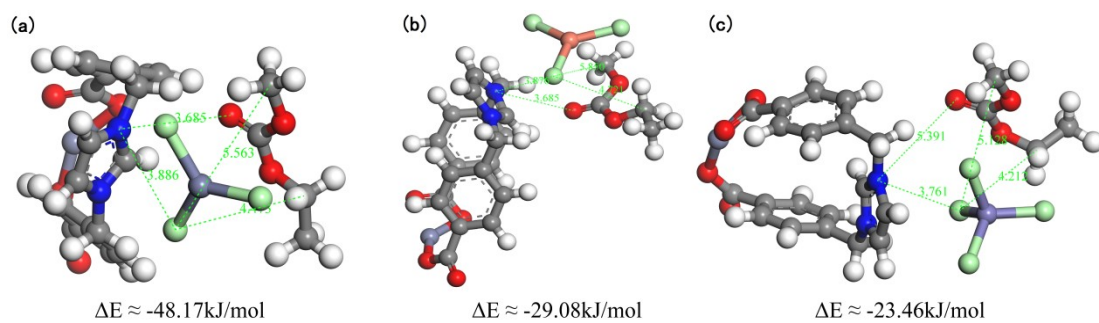
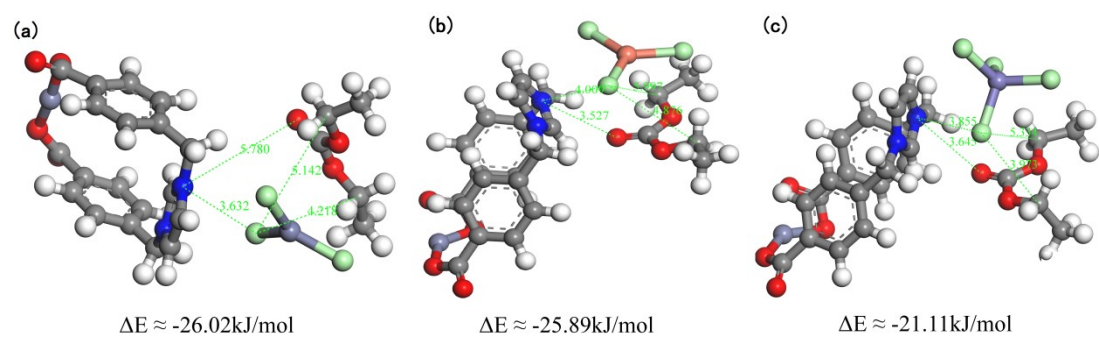


Fig. S3. Sigma-profile of the functionalized cation computed by COSMO-MS.



**Fig. S4** Interaction energy between EMC and ILs  
 (a) IL-ZnCl<sub>3</sub>-EMC; (b) IL-CuCl<sub>3</sub>-EMC; (c) IL-FeCl<sub>4</sub>-EMC;



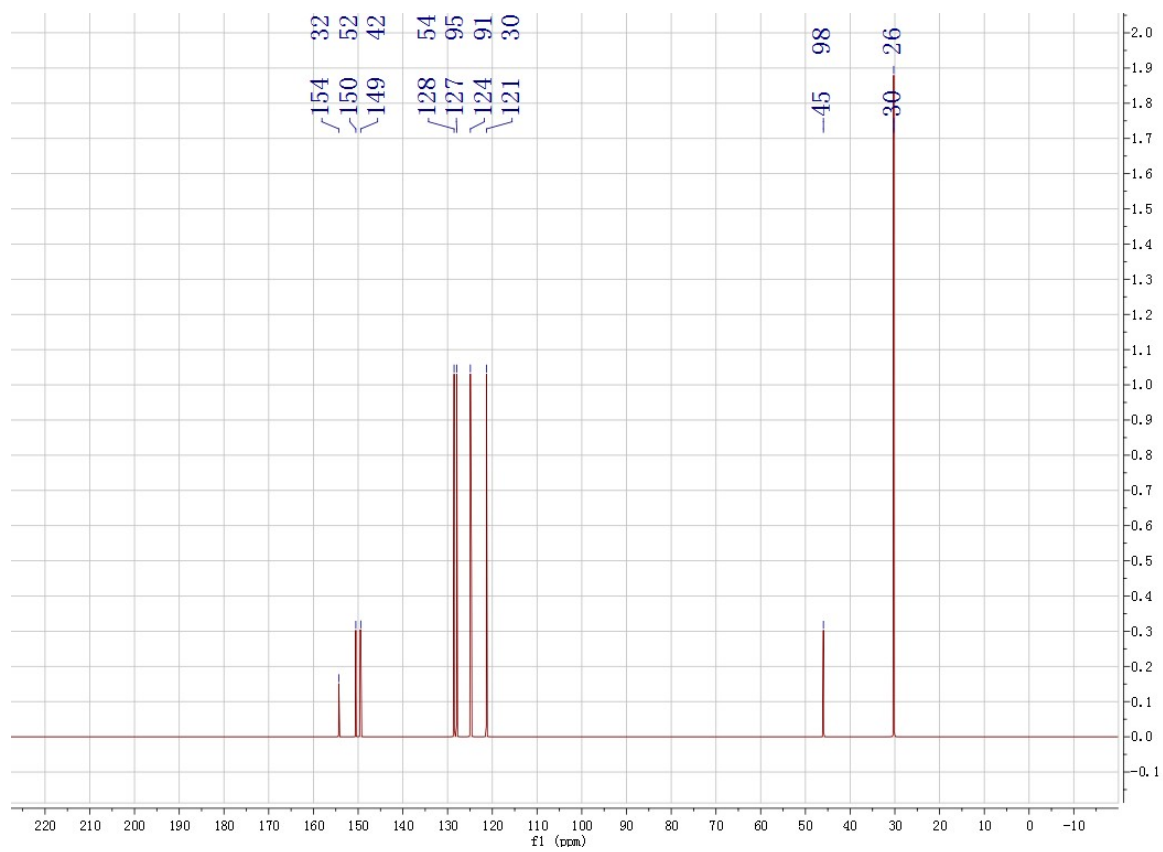
**Fig. S5** Interaction energy between DEC and ILs  
 (a) IL-ZnCl<sub>3</sub>-DEC; (b) IL-CuCl<sub>3</sub>-DEC; (c) IL-FeCl<sub>4</sub>-DEC

**Tab. S1** Factors and Levels of ( $L_n3^4$ ) orthogonal tests

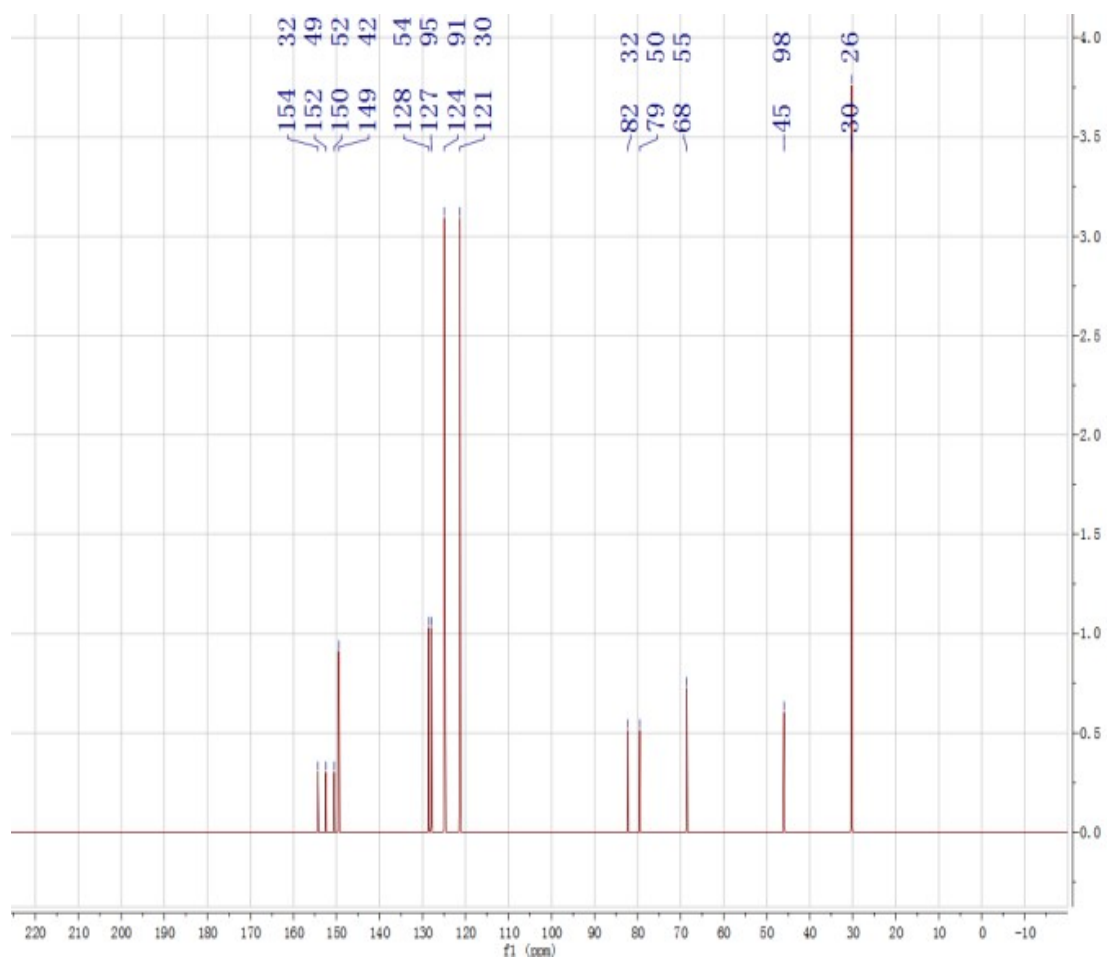
|   | Temperature<br>(A)(°C) | Pressure<br>(B) (kPa) | Time<br>(C) (min) | Catalyst dosage<br>(D) (wt %) |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 165                    | 2                     | 20                | 0.2                           |
| 2 | 175                    | 4                     | 40                | 0.4                           |
| 3 | 185                    | 6                     | 60                | 0.6                           |

**Tab. S2** Effects of different process parameters on the catalytic process

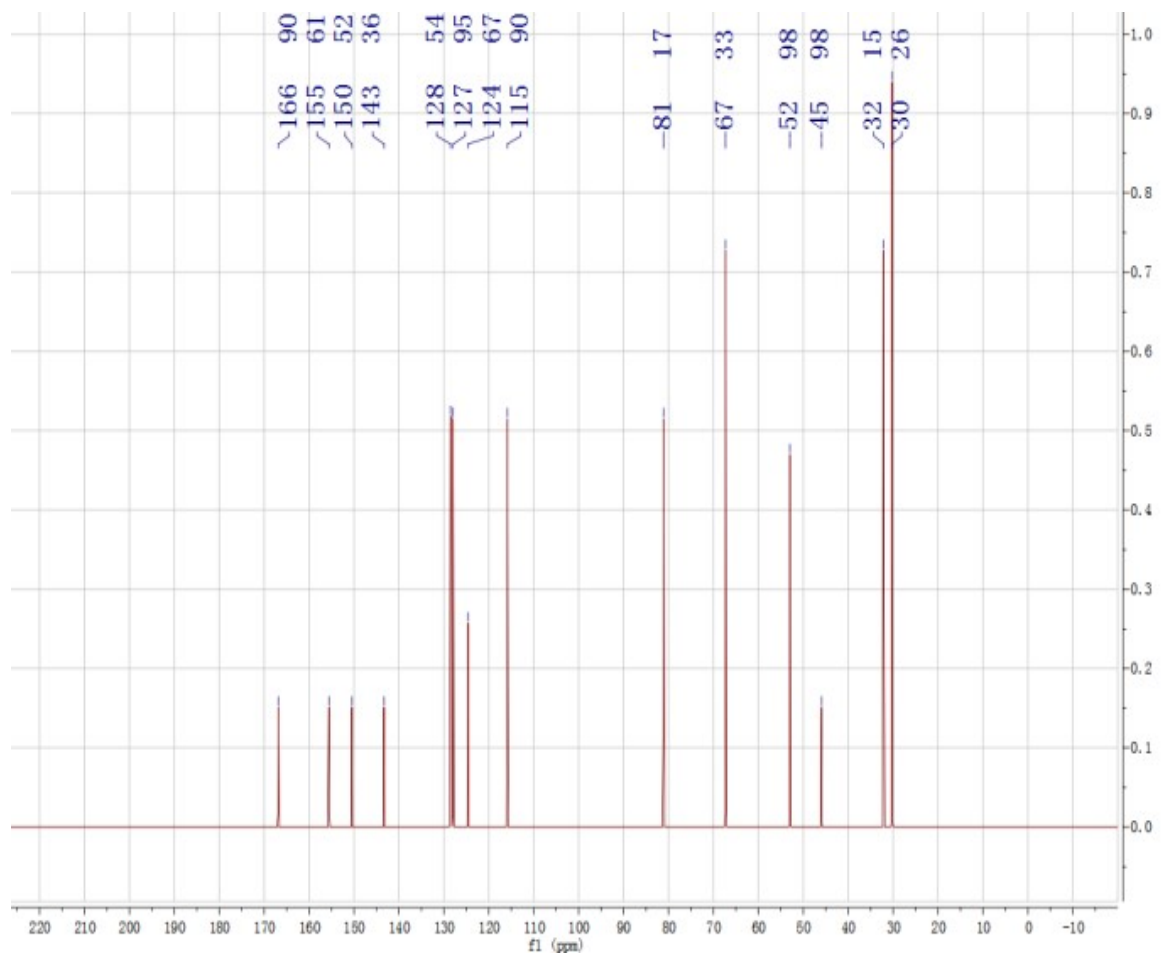
| No.      | Factors |         |         |         | Conv.<br>(%) | Yield<br>(%) |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|
|          | A(°C)   | B(kPa)  | C(min)  | D(wt %) |              |              |
| 1        | 165 (1) | 2 (1)   | 20 (1)  | 0.2 (1) | 84.83        | 81.52        |
| 2        | 165 (1) | 4 (2)   | 40 (2)  | 0.4 (2) | 87.43        | 85.69        |
| 3        | 165 (1) | 6 (3)   | 60 (3)  | 0.6 (3) | 86.24        | 83.44        |
| 4        | 175 (2) | 2 (1)   | 40 (2)  | 0.6 (3) | 99.08        | 98.16        |
| 5        | 175 (2) | 4 (2)   | 60 (3)  | 0.2 (1) | 98.14        | 97.05        |
| 6        | 175 (2) | 6 (3)   | 20 (1)  | 0.4 (2) | 94.34        | 93.03        |
| 7        | 185 (3) | 2 (1)   | 60 (3)  | 0.4 (2) | 96.41        | 94.51        |
| 8        | 185 (3) | 4 (2)   | 20 (1)  | 0.6 (3) | 93.64        | 91.12        |
| 9        | 185 (3) | 6 (3)   | 40 (2)  | 0.2 (1) | 94.04        | 92.18        |
| $K_{j1}$ | 258.5   | 280.32/ | 272.81  | 277.01  | —            | —            |
|          | /250.65 | 274.19  | /265.67 | /270.75 |              |              |
| $K_{j2}$ | 291.56  | 279.21/ | 280.55  | 278.18  | —            | —            |
|          | /288.24 | 273.86  | /276.03 | /273.23 |              |              |
| $K_{j3}$ | 284.09  | 274.62/ | 280.79  | 278.96  | —            | —            |
|          | /277.81 | 268.65  | /275    | /272.72 |              |              |
| $k_{j1}$ | 86.17   | 93.44   | 90.94   | 92.34   | —            | —            |
|          | /83.55  | /91.40  | /88.56  | /90.25  |              |              |
| $k_{j2}$ | 97.19   | 93.07   | 93.52   | 92.73   | —            | —            |
|          | /96.08  | /91.29  | /92.01  | /91.08  |              |              |
| $k_{j3}$ | 94.70   | 91.54   | 93.60   | 92.99   | —            | —            |
|          | /92.60  | /89.55  | /91.67  | /90.91  |              |              |
| R        | 11.02   | 1.90    | 2.66    | 0.65    | —            | —            |
|          | /12.53  | /1.85   | /3.45   | /0.83   |              |              |



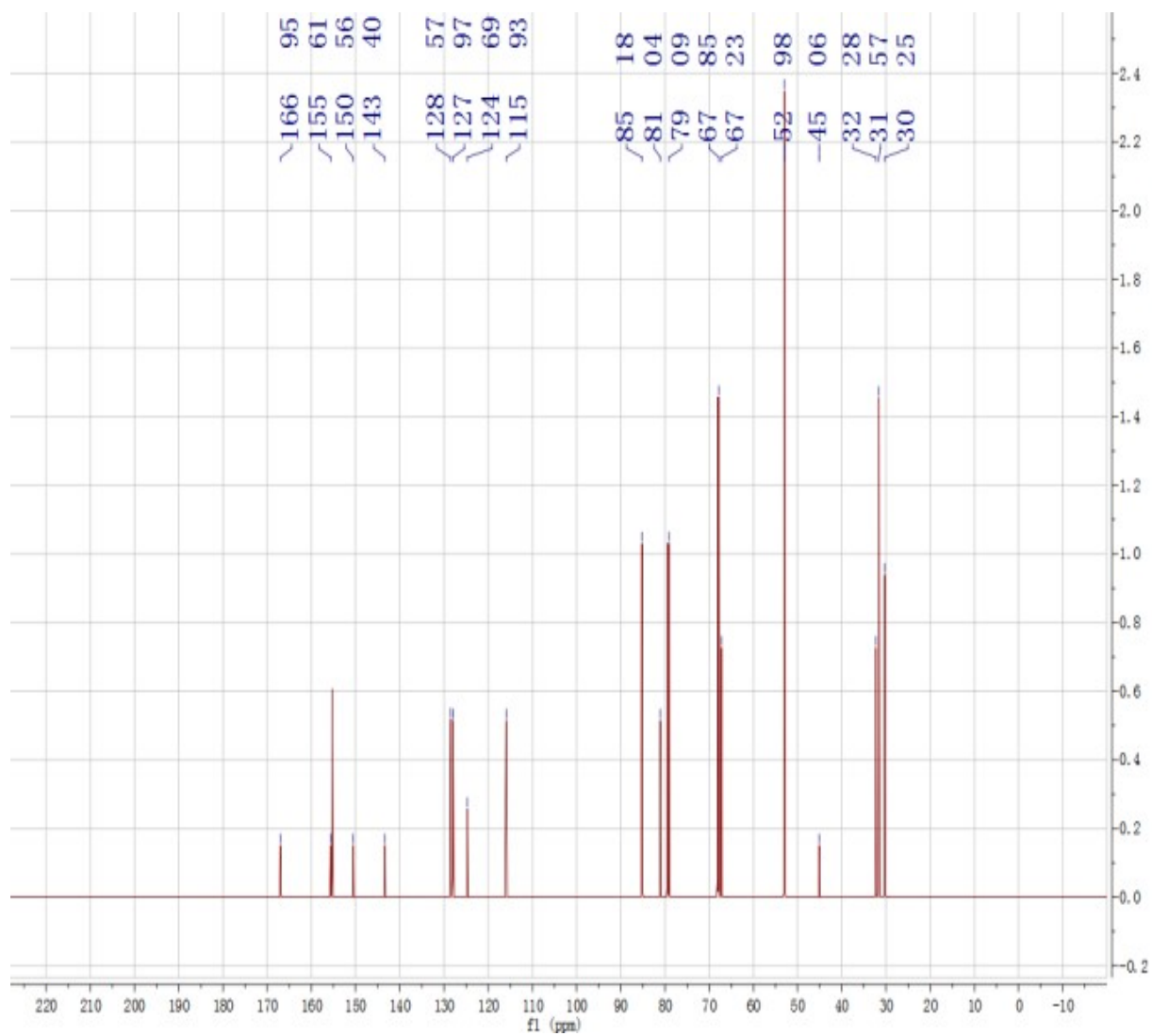
**Fig. S6.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR of PIB-O (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



**Fig. S7.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR of PIB-30 (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>).

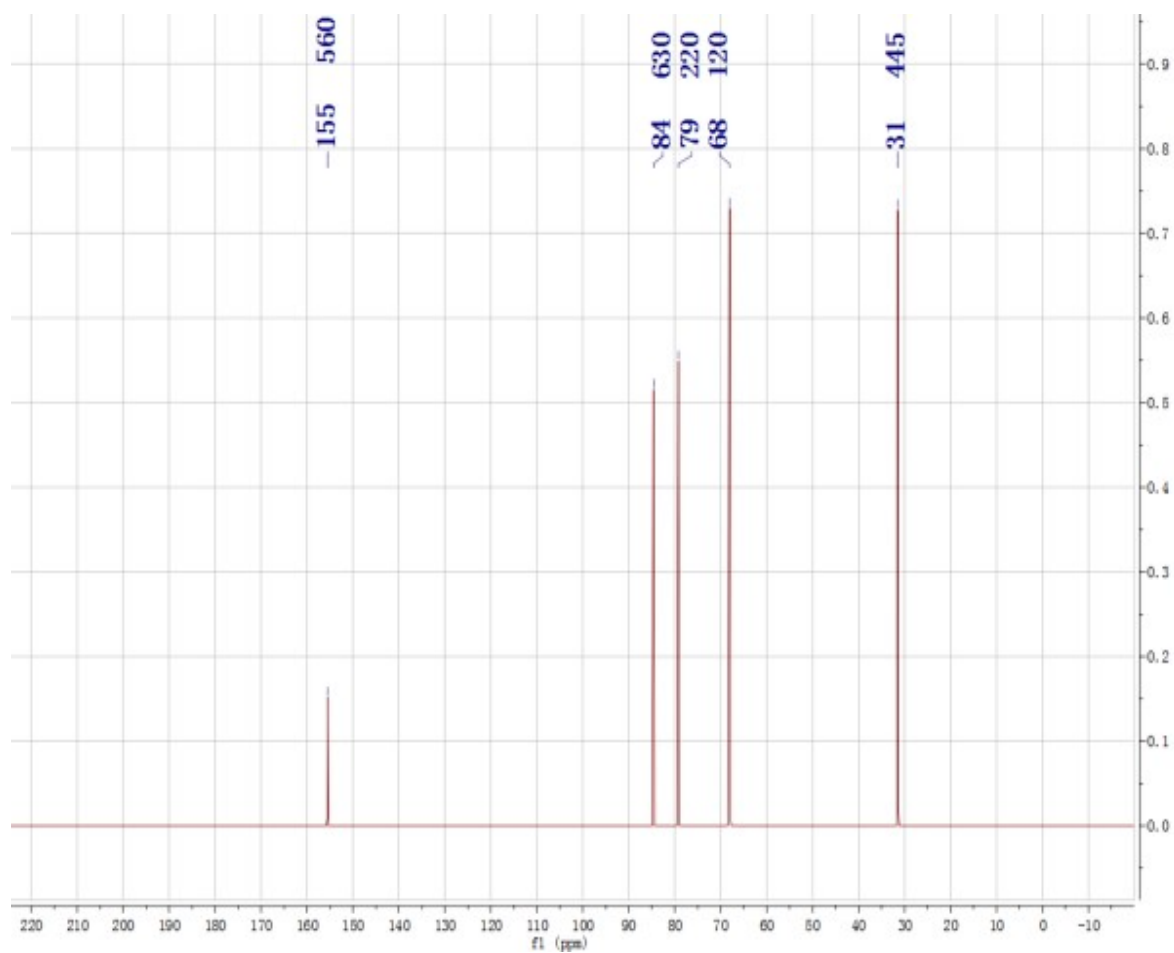


**Fig. S8.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR of PIB-50 (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>).

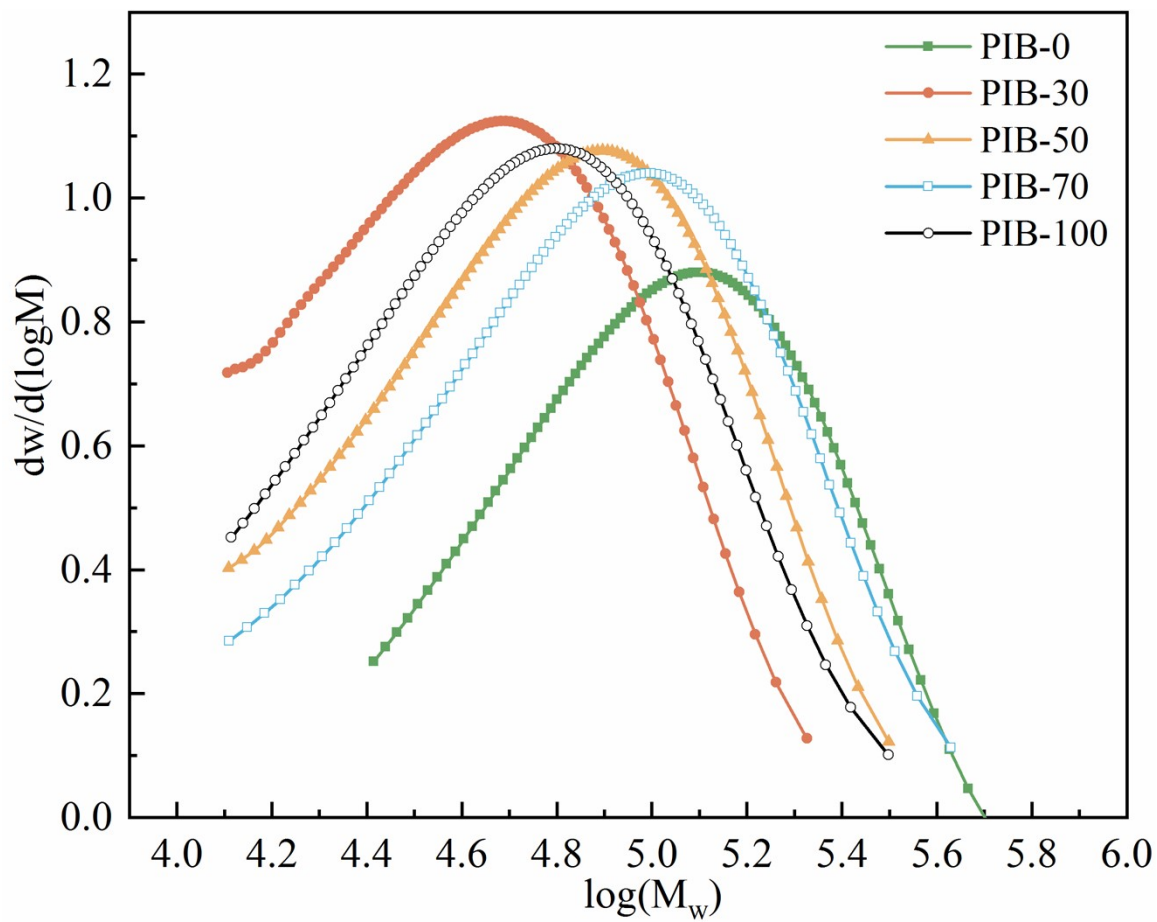


**Fig. S9.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR of PIB-70 (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>).





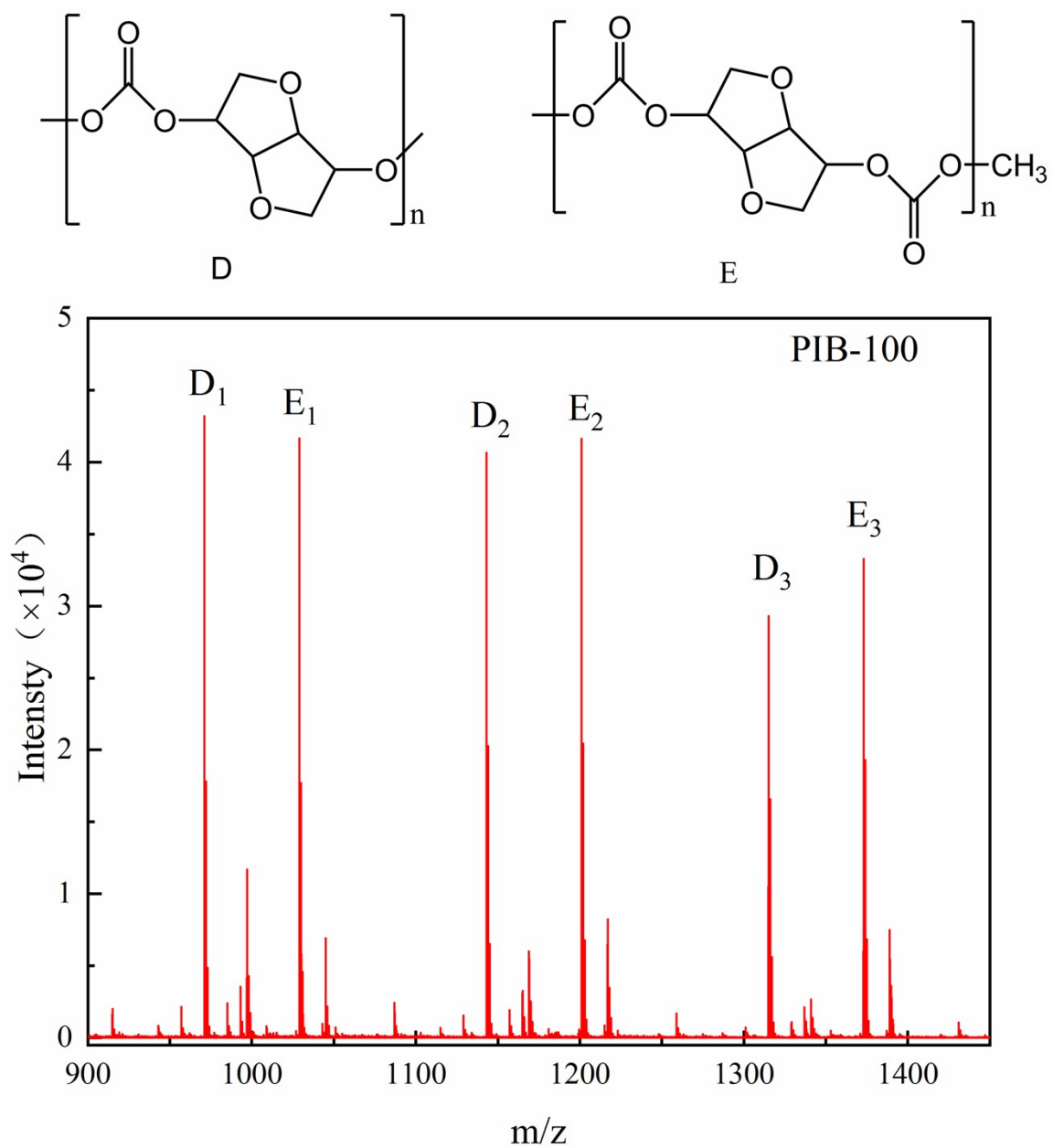
**Fig. S10.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR of PIB-100 (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



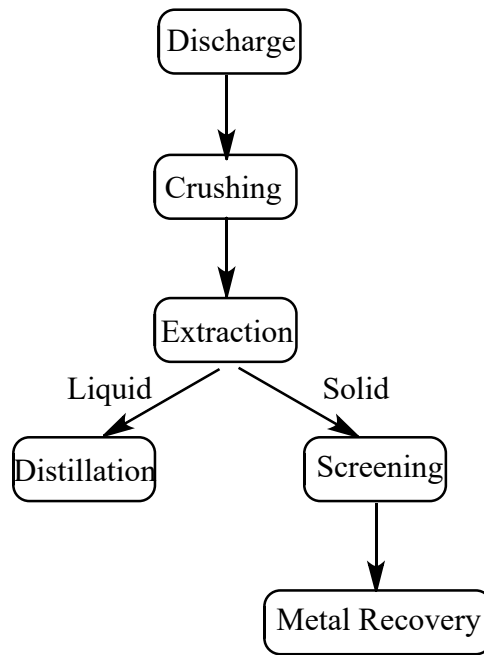
**Fig. S11.** GPC of copolymerised PIBs.



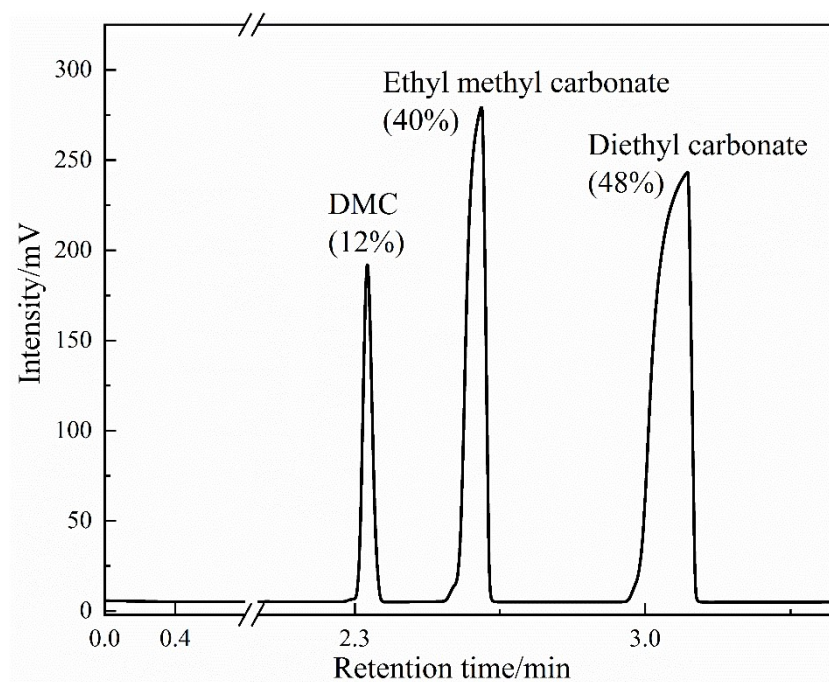
**Fig. S12.** Photo of stretching spline for injection molding



**Fig. S13.** The GPC profiles for the PIB-100 analyzed by the MALDI-TOF MS.



**Fig. S14.** Spent lithium battery recycling process



**Fig. S15.** Gas chromatography of s-LIBs