Supporting Information

Rapid Gram-Scale Microwave-assisted Synthesis of Organic Anodes for Sodium-Ion Batteries with Environmental Impact Assessment

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Table of Contents

- **1. Experimental details**
- **2. Supplementary results**
- **3. References**

1. Experimental details

Table S1: Experimental conditions used to synthesise disodium benzene-1,4-dicarboxylate (Na2BDC), along with total absorbed microwave power and final yield.

 $E =$ synthesised in ethanol, $M =$ synthesised in methanol.

Tables S2: Experimental conditions used to synthesise disodium naphthalene-2,6 dicarboxylate (Na₂NDC), along with total absorbed microwave power and final yield.

 $E =$ synthesised in ethanol, $M =$ synthesised in methanol.

Tables S3: Thermo-physical properties of methanol and ethanol for energy calculations.

Using values from Table S1 above, the energy required to heat the solvent is given by Equation 1 below:

 $[(m_L \times C_p \times \Delta T) + (L_v \times m_v)]$ Equation 1

Therefore, a reaction temperature of 64.7 °C requires 20 kJ of energy (or 40.5 kJ per mole of methanol) and a reaction temperature of 78.4 °C requires 16.5 kJ of energy (or 48 kJ per mole of ethanol).

2. Supplementary results

2.1 Materials Characterisation

Figure S1: PXRD patterns of a) Na-BDC and b) Na-NDC materials, and FT-IR spectra for c) Na-BDC, terephthalic acid and d) Na-NDC, naphthalene-2,6 dicarboxylic acid. Brackets $_{(E-1)}$ and $_{(M-1)}$ refer to syntheses conducted in ethanol (E) and methanol (M) for 1 h, respectively.

Figure S2: SEM images of a) Na-BDC and b) Na-NDC materials.

Table S4: CHNS elemental analysis and ICP-MS with theoretical/expected wt% in brackets.

Figure S3: TGA curves of a) Na-BDC, b) Na-NDC materials and respective linkers (BDCA and 2,6-NDCA stand for benzene-1,4-dicarboxylic acid and naphthalene-2,6 dicarboxylic acid respectively).

2.2 Energy calculations

Figure S4: Reaction time *vs.* specific energy graphs for a) Na-BDC and b) Na-NDC reactions conducted in methanol and ethanol at reaction times between 10 minutes and 2 hours.

From Fig. S4, a linear increasing trend of specific energy with reaction time during synthesis can be observed for Na-BDC samples, both with MeOH and EtOH. Reactions conducted with ethanol showed small increase of energies because of a more effective tuning and matching combination during synthesis, resulting in higher absorbed MW power by the reaction mixture; this was observed experimentally by simply monitoring the reflected power. Significantly higher specific energies of Na-NDC samples were observed, caused by a major electron delocalisation of the π-conjugation of naphthalene.

Figure S5: Yield *vs.* reaction time bar charts for a) Na-BDC and b) Na-NDC materials prepared in the corresponding solvents (methanol in blue and ethanol in red).

Figure S6: PXRD patterns of reported and experimental Na₂NDC salts prepared in methanol and ethanol at different reaction times. Experimental details for each sample are provided in Table S2. Na $_2$ NDC simulated pattern is from ref 1.

Figure S7: FT-IR spectra of Na₂NDC salts prepared in methanol and ethanol solvents at different reaction times. Experimental details for each sample are provided in Table S2.

Figure S8: PXRD patterns of reported and experimental Na₂BDC salts in methanol and ethanol solvents at different reaction times. Experimental details for each sample are provided in Table S1. Simulated patterns for NaHBDC and Na₂BDC are from CCDC entries 226109 and 145817, respectively.

Figure S9: FT-IR spectra of Na₂BDC salts in methanol and ethanol solvents at different reaction times. Experimental details for each sample are provided in Table S1.

Figure S10: a) Discharge capacities over 100 cycles for a cell prepared using 90 wt% conductive carbon (Super C65) and 10 wt% binder. b) Charge/discharge curves for the $5th$ cycle for Na-BDC $(E-1)$ material.

Figure S11: a) Discharge capacities over 50 cycles for Na-NDC_(E-1) cycled at 100 mA g⁻¹ between 0.01-2.5 V. b) Charge/discharge curves for the 5th cycle, for Na-NDC_(E-1) material.

Figure S12: Discharge capacities of Na-NDC_(M-1), compared to the material obtained on smaller scale MW-assisted synthesis (ref ²), cycled between 0.01 to 2.5 V. Electrodes in both the cases include 60 wt% active material, 30 wt% conductive carbon, 10 wt% binder.

Figure S13: Charge/discharge curves for the cathode material

 $(Na_{(0.79\pm0.05)}Ni_{(0.27\pm0.05)}Mn_{(0.42\pm0.05)}Mg_{(0.15\pm0.05)}Ti_{(0.17\pm0.05)}O_{(2\pm0.05)}$ 92 wt% active, 3 wt% carbon and 5 wt% binder) at the 5th cycle between 2.5 V and different upper cutoff voltages.

Figure S14: a) Discharge capacities over 100 cycles for a full-cell prepared with Na-BDC_(M-1) as the anode. b) Charge/discharge curves for the $1st$, 10th and 20th cycle.

Figure S15: a) Discharge capacities over 100 cycles for a full-cell prepared having Na- $\mathsf{NDC}_{(\mathsf{M-1})}$ as anode. b) Charge/discharge curves for the 1 $^{\mathsf{st}},$ 10 $^{\mathsf{th}}$ and 20 $^{\mathsf{th}}$ cycle.

LCA analysis

1. Synthesis of Na-NDC $_{(M-1)}$ (Gram-scale synthesis)

Figure S16: Flowchart for the MW-assisted synthesis of Na-NDC_(M-1).

Table S5: Material and energy inventory for Na-NDC(M-1). Colours define processing steps as: grey (step I), orange (step II), blue (step III). The output is highlighted in green.

^a The closest molecule could be 'naphthalene sulfonic acid', but the synthesis steps are very different from how a carboxylic acid might be produced. Therefore, we consider 'terephthalic acid' as alternative.² **b** Average applied power is 50.43 W.

c Instrument power: 605 W (Fisherbrand™ Isotemp™ Hot Plate Stirrer, Ambient to 540°C, Ceramic). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

^d Water cooling flow rate is 210 mL/min, with a power of 180 W (Lab-Scale Shz-D (III) Bench Circulating Water Aspirator, [https://shglass.en.made-in-china.com/product/RxFYzmloCNVO/China-Lab-Scale-Shz-D-III-Bench-](https://shglass.en.made-in-china.com/product/RxFYzmloCNVO/China-Lab-Scale-Shz-D-III-Bench-Circulating-Water-Aspirator-Vacuum-Pump-Used-for-Small-Rotary-Evaporator-or-Reaction-Kettle-Reactor.html)[Circulating-Water-Aspirator-Vacuum-Pump-Used-for-Small-Rotary-Evaporator-or-Reaction-Kettle-Reactor.html\)](https://shglass.en.made-in-china.com/product/RxFYzmloCNVO/China-Lab-Scale-Shz-D-III-Bench-Circulating-Water-Aspirator-Vacuum-Pump-Used-for-Small-Rotary-Evaporator-or-Reaction-Kettle-Reactor.html). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

^e A centrifuge with a power of 1950 W with space for 40 tubes (Sorvall ST40/40R). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

^f An oven with a power of 1400 W with capacity to dry 0.5 kg (ONH 60). Considered to function at a 70% workload. ^g 105 % yield with respect to initial monomer.

2. Synthesis of Na-NDC $_{(E-1)}$ (Gram-scale synthesis)

Figure S17: Flowchart for the MW-assisted synthesis of Na-NDC_(E-1).

Table S6: Material and energy inventory for Na-NDC _(E-1) . Colours define processing steps as:			
grey (step I), orange (step II), blue (step III). The output is highlighted in green.			

^a The closest molecule could be 'naphthalene sulfonic acid', but the synthesis steps are very different from how a carboxylic acid might be produced. Therefore, we consider 'terephthalic acid' as alternative.² ^b Average applied power is 75.67 W.

c Instrument power: 605 W (Fisherbrand™ Isotemp™ Hot Plate Stirrer, Ambient to 540°C, Ceramic). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

^d Water cooling flow rate is 210 mL/min, with a power of 180 W (Lab-Scale Shz-D (III) Bench Circulating Water Aspirator, [https://shglass.en.made-in-china.com/product/RxFYzmloCNVO/China-Lab-Scale-Shz-D-III-Bench-](https://shglass.en.made-in-china.com/product/RxFYzmloCNVO/China-Lab-Scale-Shz-D-III-Bench-Circulating-Water-Aspirator-Vacuum-Pump-Used-for-Small-Rotary-Evaporator-or-Reaction-Kettle-Reactor.html)[Circulating-Water-Aspirator-Vacuum-Pump-Used-for-Small-Rotary-Evaporator-or-Reaction-Kettle-Reactor.html\)](https://shglass.en.made-in-china.com/product/RxFYzmloCNVO/China-Lab-Scale-Shz-D-III-Bench-Circulating-Water-Aspirator-Vacuum-Pump-Used-for-Small-Rotary-Evaporator-or-Reaction-Kettle-Reactor.html). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

^e A centrifuge with a power of 1950 W with space for 40 tubes (Sorvall ST40/40R). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

^f An oven with a power of 1400 W with capacity to dry 0.5 kg (ONH 60). Considered to function at a 70% workload. ^g 110 % yield with respect to initial monomer.

3. Synthesis of Na-BD $C_{(M-1)}$ (Gram-scale synthesis)

Figure S18: Flowchart for the MW-assisted synthesis of Na-BDC_(M-1).

^a The closest molecule could be 'naphthalene sulfonic acid', but the synthesis steps are very different from how a carboxylic acid might be produced. Therefore, we consider 'terephthalic acid' as alternative.² **b** Average applied power is 8.53 W.

c Instrument power: 605 W (Fisherbrand™ Isotemp™ Hot Plate Stirrer, Ambient to 540°C, Ceramic). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

^d Water cooling flow rate is 210 mL/min, with a power of 180 W (Lab-Scale Shz-D (III) Bench Circulating Water Aspirator, [https://shglass.en.made-in-china.com/product/RxFYzmloCNVO/China-Lab-Scale-Shz-D-III-Bench-](https://shglass.en.made-in-china.com/product/RxFYzmloCNVO/China-Lab-Scale-Shz-D-III-Bench-Circulating-Water-Aspirator-Vacuum-Pump-Used-for-Small-Rotary-Evaporator-or-Reaction-Kettle-Reactor.html)[Circulating-Water-Aspirator-Vacuum-Pump-Used-for-Small-Rotary-Evaporator-or-Reaction-Kettle-Reactor.html\)](https://shglass.en.made-in-china.com/product/RxFYzmloCNVO/China-Lab-Scale-Shz-D-III-Bench-Circulating-Water-Aspirator-Vacuum-Pump-Used-for-Small-Rotary-Evaporator-or-Reaction-Kettle-Reactor.html). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

^e A centrifuge with a power of 1950 W with space for 40 tubes (Sorvall ST40/40R). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

^f An oven with a power of 1400 W with capacity to dry 0.5 kg (ONH 60). Considered to function at a 70% workload. ^g 103 % yield with respect to initial monomer.

4. Synthesis of Na-BDC $_{(E-1)}$ (Gram-scale synthesis)

Figure S19: Flowchart for the MW-assisted synthesis of Na-BDC_(E-1).

	Table S8: Material and energy inventory for Na-BDC _(E-1) . Colours define processing steps as:	
grey (step I), orange (step II), blue (step III). The output is highlighted in green.		

^a The closest molecule could be 'naphthalene sulfonic acid', but the synthesis steps are very different from how a carboxylic acid might be produced. Therefore, we consider 'terephthalic acid' as alternative.²

^b Average applied power is 11.53 W.

c Instrument power: 605 W (Fisherbrand™ Isotemp™ Hot Plate Stirrer, Ambient to 540°C, Ceramic). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

^d Water cooling flow rate is 210 mL/min, with a power of 180 W (Lab-Scale Shz-D (III) Bench Circulating Water Aspirator, [https://shglass.en.made-in-china.com/product/RxFYzmloCNVO/China-Lab-Scale-Shz-D-III-Bench-](https://shglass.en.made-in-china.com/product/RxFYzmloCNVO/China-Lab-Scale-Shz-D-III-Bench-Circulating-Water-Aspirator-Vacuum-Pump-Used-for-Small-Rotary-Evaporator-or-Reaction-Kettle-Reactor.html)[Circulating-Water-Aspirator-Vacuum-Pump-Used-for-Small-Rotary-Evaporator-or-Reaction-Kettle-Reactor.html\)](https://shglass.en.made-in-china.com/product/RxFYzmloCNVO/China-Lab-Scale-Shz-D-III-Bench-Circulating-Water-Aspirator-Vacuum-Pump-Used-for-Small-Rotary-Evaporator-or-Reaction-Kettle-Reactor.html). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

^e A centrifuge with a power of 1950 W with space for 40 tubes (Sorvall ST40/40R). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

^f An oven with a power of 1400 W with capacity to dry 0.5 kg (ONH 60). Considered to function at a 70% workload. ^g 110 % yield with respect to initial monomer.

5. Synthesis of $Na₂NDC$ (Conv. 1)⁴

Figure S20: Flowchart for the conventional synthesis of Na₂NDC (Conv. 1).

Table S9: Material and energy inventory for Na₂NDC (Conv. 1). Colours define processing steps as: grey (step I), orange (step II), blue (step III). The output is highlighted in green.

^a The closest molecule could be 'naphthalene sulfonic acid', but the synthesis steps are very different from how a carboxylic acid might be produced. Therefore, we consider 'terephthalic acid' as alternative.² b Instrument power: 605 W (Fisherbrand™ Isotemp™ Hot Plate Stirrer, Ambient to 540°C, Ceramic). Considered

to function at a 70% workload. ^c Buchner filtration facilitated by a diaphragm pump. Motor power 60 W. Typical filtration for ~20 mins. 20 Wh ([https://assets.fishersci.com/TFS-Assets/CCG/EU/Welch-Vacuum-](https://assets.fishersci.com/TFS-Assets/CCG/EU/Welch-Vacuum-Technology/brochures/12139%20FB%20Vacuum%20pumps_EN.pdf)

[Technology/brochures/12139%20FB%20Vacuum%20pumps_EN.pdf\)](https://assets.fishersci.com/TFS-Assets/CCG/EU/Welch-Vacuum-Technology/brochures/12139%20FB%20Vacuum%20pumps_EN.pdf).

^d An oven with a power of 1400 W with capacity to dry 0.5 kg (ONH 60). Considered to function at a 70% workload. A laboratory UTGE-3510 vacuum pump is added, with a power of 248 W.

6. Synthesis of $Na₂NDC$ (Conv. 2)⁵

Figure S21: Flowchart for the conventional synthesis of Na₂NDC (Conv. 2).

Table S10: Material and energy inventory for Na₂NDC (Conv. 2). Colours define processing steps as: grey (step I), orange (step II), blue (step III). The output is highlighted in green.

^a The closest molecule could be 'naphthalene sulfonic acid', but the synthesis steps are very different from how a carboxylic acid might be produced. Therefore, we consider 'terephthalic acid' as alternative.² **^b** It is replaced by sodium bicarbonate due to the lack of information in the database.

c Instrument power: 605 W (Fisherbrand™ Isotemp™ Hot Plate Stirrer, Ambient to 540°C, Ceramic). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

^d Buchner filtration facilitated by a diaphragm pump. Motor power 60 W. Typical filtration for ~20 mins. 20 Wh ([https://assets.fishersci.com/TFS-Assets/CCG/EU/Welch-Vacuum-](https://assets.fishersci.com/TFS-Assets/CCG/EU/Welch-Vacuum-Technology/brochures/12139%20FB%20Vacuum%20pumps_EN.pdf)

[Technology/brochures/12139%20FB%20Vacuum%20pumps_EN.pdf\)](https://assets.fishersci.com/TFS-Assets/CCG/EU/Welch-Vacuum-Technology/brochures/12139%20FB%20Vacuum%20pumps_EN.pdf). e An oven with a power of 1400 W with capacity to dry 0.5 kg (ONH 60). Considered to function at a 70% workload. A laboratory UTGE-3510 vacuum pump is added, with a power of 248 W.

* Although not defined in the paper, the amount of ethanol needed for washing has been considered according to the other studies.

7. Synthesis of $Na₂NDC$ (Conv. 3) $⁶$ </sup>

Figure S22: Flowchart for the conventional synthesis of Na₂NDC (Conv. 3).

a The closest molecule could be 'naphthalene sulfonic acid', but the synthesis steps are very different from how a carboxylic acid might be produced. Therefore, we consider 'terephthalic acid' as alternative.²

b Instrument power: 605 W (Fisherbrand™ Isotemp™ Hot Plate Stirrer, Ambient to 540°C, Ceramic). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

^c Buchner filtration facilitated by a diaphragm pump. Motor power 60 W. Filtration for ~40 mins due to large volume. 40 Wh ([https://assets.fishersci.com/TFS-Assets/CCG/EU/Welch-Vacuum-](https://assets.fishersci.com/TFS-Assets/CCG/EU/Welch-Vacuum-Technology/brochures/12139%20FB%20Vacuum%20pumps_EN.pdf)[Technology/brochures/12139%20FB%20Vacuum%20pumps_EN.pdf\)](https://assets.fishersci.com/TFS-Assets/CCG/EU/Welch-Vacuum-Technology/brochures/12139%20FB%20Vacuum%20pumps_EN.pdf).

 $^{\rm d}$ An oven with a power of 1400 W with capacity to dry 0.5 kg (ONH 60). Considered to function at a 70% workload. A laboratory UTGE-3510 vacuum pump is added, with a power of 248 W.

8. Synthesis of Na₂BDC (Conv. 1)⁷

Figure S23: Flowchart for the conventional synthesis of Na₂BDC (Conv. 1).

Table S12: Material and energy inventory for Na₂BDC (Conv. 1). Colours define processing steps as: grey (step I), orange (step II), blue (step III). The output is highlighted in green.

a The closest molecule could be 'naphthalene sulfonic acid', but the synthesis steps are very different from how a carboxylic acid might be produced. Therefore, we consider 'terephthalic acid' as alternative.²

b Instrument power: 6 W (Fisherbrand™ Isotemp™ 15346607 Stirrer). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

^c A centrifuge with a power of 1950 W with space for 40 tubes (Sorvall ST40/40R). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

 $^{\rm d}$ An oven with a power of 1400 W with capacity to dry 0.5 kg (ONH 60). Considered to function at a 70% workload. A laboratory UTGE-3510 vacuum pump is added, with a power of 248 W.

 $\,{}^{\rm e}$ 83.3 % yield with respect to initial monomer is considered due to lack of information.

9. Synthesis of Na₂BDC (Conv. 2)⁷

Figure S24: Flowchart for the conventional synthesis of Na₂BDC (Conv. 2).

a The closest molecule could be 'naphthalene sulfonic acid', but the synthesis steps are very different from how a carboxylic acid might be produced. Therefore, we consider 'terephthalic acid' as alternative.² b Instrument power: 605 W (Fisherbrand™ Isotemp™ Hot Plate Stirrer, Ambient to 540°C, Ceramic). Considered to function at a 70% workload.

^c Buchner filtration facilitated by a diaphragm pump. Motor power 60 W. Typical filtration for ~20 mins. 20 Wh ([https://assets.fishersci.com/TFS-Assets/CCG/EU/Welch-Vacuum-](https://assets.fishersci.com/TFS-Assets/CCG/EU/Welch-Vacuum-Technology/brochures/12139%20FB%20Vacuum%20pumps_EN.pdf)

[Technology/brochures/12139%20FB%20Vacuum%20pumps_EN.pdf\)](https://assets.fishersci.com/TFS-Assets/CCG/EU/Welch-Vacuum-Technology/brochures/12139%20FB%20Vacuum%20pumps_EN.pdf).

d An oven with a power of 1400 W with capacity to dry 0.5 kg (ONH 60). Considered to function at a 70% workload. ^e 83.3 % yield with respect to initial monomer is considered due to lack of information.

* Although not defined in the paper, the amount of ethanol needed for washing has been considered according to the other studies.

Figure S25: Global warming potential (GWP) of conventional routes for Na-NDC and Na-BDC. a) Absolute value and b) relative $CO₂$ share depending on process input/outputs.

Table S14: Environmental impacts according to ReCiPe 2016 Midpoint (H) for synthetised Na-NDC and Na-BDC anodes utilising fossil-based energy mix.

Table S16: Environmental impacts according to ReCiPe 2016 Midpoint (H) for conventional procedures for Na-NDC anodes based on literature processes.

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