## **Supporting Information**

## Construction of energy transfer channels from [SbCl<sub>6</sub>]<sup>3-</sup> to Ln<sup>3+</sup>

## (Ln<sup>3+</sup> = Ho<sup>3+</sup>, Er<sup>3+</sup>) in Cs<sub>2</sub>NaGdCl<sub>6</sub> for advanced

## anti-counterfeiting materials

Yanyang Li<sup>a</sup>, Huimin Du<sup>a</sup>, Yue Ma<sup>a</sup>, Meifang Liu<sup>a</sup>, Jian Zou<sup>a</sup>, Shentang Wang<sup>a</sup>, Jun Yang<sup>\*a</sup>, Shanshan Hu<sup>\*a</sup> and Jun Lin<sup>\*b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Southwest University, No. 2 Tiansheng Road, Beibei District, Chongqing 400715, China.

<sup>b</sup>State Key Laboratory of Rare Earth Resource Utilization, Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry Chinese Academy of Sciences, Changchun 130022, China.

E-mail: jyang@swu.edu.cn, hushan3@swu.edu.cn, jlin@ciac.ac.cn.



Fig. S1. Energy dispersive spectrum of CNGC:0.7%Sb $^{3+}/1\%$ Er $^{3+}/8\%$ Ho $^{3+}$ .



Fig. S2. PL intensity versus excitation power density at room temperature for CNGC:0.7%Sb<sup>3+</sup>.



Fig. S3. PLQY of (a) CNGC:0.7%Sb<sup>3+</sup> and (b) CNGC:0.7%Sb<sup>3+</sup>/8%Ho<sup>3+</sup> collected with integrating sphere ( $\lambda_{ex} = 316$  nm).



**Fig. S4.** PL decay curves and lifetimes of the CNGC:0.7%Sb<sup>3+</sup>/yHo<sup>3+</sup> monitored at 657 nm (a) and 468 nm (b), respectively.

| Samples  | Lifetime (µs) | $\eta_{\rm ET}$ |
|--|---------------|-----------------|
| CNGC:0.7%Sb <sup>3+</sup>                      | 1.64          | 0               |
| CNGC:0.7%Sb <sup>3+</sup> /2%Ho <sup>3+</sup>  | 1.40          | 15%             |
| CNGC:0.7%Sb <sup>3+</sup> /4%Ho <sup>3+</sup>  | 1.14          | 30%             |
| CNGC:0.7%Sb <sup>3+</sup> /6%Ho <sup>3+</sup>  | 1.01          | 38%             |
| CNGC:0.7%Sb <sup>3+</sup> /8%Ho <sup>3+</sup>  | 0.94          | 43%             |
| CNGC:0.7%Sb <sup>3+</sup> /10%Ho <sup>3+</sup> | 0.86          | 48%             |
| CNGC:0.7%Sb <sup>3+</sup> /12%Ho <sup>3+</sup> | 0.74          | 55%             |

**Tab. S1.** Lifetimes monitored at 468 nm under the excitation of 316 nm and the corresponding energy transfer efficiency ( $\eta_{ET}$ ).



**Fig. S5**. (a) PL spectra of CNGC:0.7%Sb<sup>3+</sup>/8%Ho<sup>3+</sup> and (b) the corresponding variation of emission intensity, peak wavelengths and FWHM values in five cycles of soak-drying. Here, the number following CNGC represents the number of cycles.



**Fig. S6**. XRD patterns of CNGC:0.7%Sb<sup>3+</sup>/8%Ho<sup>3+</sup> in five cycles of soak-drying. Here, the number following CNGC represents the number of cycles.



Fig. S7. Time-resolved XRD patterns of CNGC under steam treatment.



**Fig. S8**. (a) UC PL spectrum, (b) UC PL spectra with different excitation power intensity, (c) the dependence of pump power and UC PL intensity and (d) UC mechanism diagram of CNGC:0.7%Sb<sup>3+</sup>/1%Er<sup>3+</sup>/8%Ho<sup>3+</sup>.



Fig. S9. PL spectra of CNGC:0.7%Sb<sup>3+</sup>/1%Er<sup>3+</sup>/8%Ho<sup>3+</sup> under different UV excitation wavelengths.