

Can a solar-powered car use water as drop-in fuel?

Researchers have developed a solar-powered technology that converts carbon dioxide and water into liquid fuels that can be added directly to a car's engine as drop-in fuel.

How does solar energy work?

Solar energy helps power a reactor that turns water and carbon into liquid hydrocarbons. The first step is acquiring a carbon source. One possibility is to remove carbon dioxide directly from the atmosphere, by passing air through systems that use either filters or chemicals to extract the CO₂.

Can We bottle solar energy?

In the last year, a team from Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, essentially figured out how to bottle solar energy. They developed a liquid fuel containing the compound norbornadiene that--when struck by sunlight--rearranges its carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen atoms into an energy-storing isomer, quadricyclane.

Can we convert CO₂ into a liquid fuel using the Sun?

"Normally, when you try to convert CO₂ into another chemical product using an artificial leaf device, you almost always get carbon monoxide or syngas, but here, we've been able to produce a practical liquid fuel just using the power of the Sun. It's an exciting advance that opens up whole new avenues in our work."

Can solar energy replace hydrocarbon fuels?

Solar energy may also be used to produce hydrogen, but the transportation sector cannot easily replace hydrocarbon fuels, with aviation being the most notable example. Due to long design and service times of aircraft the aviation sector will critically depend on the availability of liquid hydrocarbons for decades to come (*2).

How does a liquid fuel work?

They developed a liquid fuel containing the compound norbornadiene that--when struck by sunlight--rearranges its carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen atoms into an energy-storing isomer, quadricyclane. Quadricyclane holds onto the energy, estimated to be up to 250 watt-hours of energy per kilogram, even after it cools and for an extended period of time.

Nature Energy (2023). DOI: 10.1038/s41560-023-01262-3 For more information on energy-related research in Cambridge, please visit Energy IRC, which brings together Cambridge's research knowledge and expertise, in ...

undertaken this thorough investigation into power-to-liquid (PtL) fuel that builds on the sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) analytics report published in 2020.¹ While that paper ...

Liquid sunshine is a concept for converting solar energy into liquid fuel. Methanol is an attractive candidate as

the liquid fuel due to the long-period experiences in large-industrial ...

In recent years, hybrid solar and fossil fuel power generation has been widely studied [4]. Power-boosting type or fuel-saving type is the focus of research [5]. For example, ...

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Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs) produced from renewable electricity via Power-to-Liquids (PtL), also called e-jet fuel, can reduce net greenhouse gas emissions of aircraft by up to 90%, but they are markedly more expensive than fossil jet ...

Fuel from CO₂? Scientists turn carbon dioxide into methanol with new light trick. This was the first instance of high-surface silicon being used in liquid solar fuel generation.

To release the fuel's energy, it's passed through the catalyst in which a chemical reaction occurs to convert the fuel back into liquid whose temperature has been boosted by 63°C or 145°F.

This review focuses on the production of liquid fuels using solar energy combined with their use in direct liquid fuel cells. The production of formic...

Within the SUN-to-LIQUID II project, Synhelion and its partners develop the highly innovative technology where concentrated solar radiation drives a two-step redox process to convert CO₂ and water into syngas. This ...

Scientists in Sweden have developed a specialised fluid, called a solar thermal fuel, that can store energy from the sun for well over a decade. "A solar thermal fuel is like a rechargeable battery, but instead of electricity, you ...

The Sun-to-Liquid (StL) process is an innovative technology for producing SAF from high-temperature solar heat, water and CO₂ (for example from the atmosphere). In 2022, the Lufthansa Group and the Group airline SWISS ...

As mentioned above, the overall energy conversion efficiency of the solar fuel system, that is, the system efficiency η_{system} , is defined as the ratio of the heating value of ...

The SUN-to-LIQUID project takes on this challenge by producing renewable transportation fuels from water and CO₂ with concentrated sunlight: The project, which is ...

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Stephen Tereniak, a synthesis scientist in the CHASE Solar Fuels Hub, works in the lab on March 22, 2024, in Murray Hall on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The mission of CHASE (Center for ...

Now scientists from a team spanning Harvard University's Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard Medical School and the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard University have created a system ...

Rooftop solar power is exploding in the US but some scientists are pursuing a radically different route in renewable energy: storing solar energy as a liquid fuel.

Here, we demonstrate a high-efficiency solar-powered green hydrogen production from seawater. Our approach takes advantage of the full-spectrum utilization of solar energy. Photovoltaic electricity is used to drive the ...

Therefore, it can be consumed as liquid fuel and applied in fuel cell applications to generate electricity. Solar power capacity is the maximum electrical output that a solar energy ...

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