

Alternatives to cobalt in batteries

Panasonic, Tesla's battery supplier, announced at the end of last month that they are developing batteries that don't need cobalt. And they have some help: Goodenough and other researchers ...

MIT researchers have now designed a battery material that could offer a more sustainable way to power electric cars. The new lithium-ion battery includes a cathode based on organic materials, instead of cobalt or nickel (another metal often used in lithium-ion batteries).

A team of researchers in Japan has created a cleaner alternative to using cobalt--a rare element and key component in lithium-ion batteries--that also improves the battery's chemistry.

Alternatives to cobalt. Most electric cars are powered by lithium-ion batteries, a type of battery that is recharged when lithium ions flow from a positively charged electrode, called a...

When John Goodenough created the first lithium-ion rechargeable battery at Oxford in 1980, he needed some cobalt. Experiments had already established that the metal is energy-dense, perfect for small batteries that need a lot of power.¹ So Goodenough made the cobalt himself, heating the precursors at very high temperatures.

"We still have some way to go, as there are lingering minor reactions to mitigate in order to improve the safety and longevity even further," Yamada, of the University of Tokyo, said in a press release. "At present, we are confident that this research will lead to improved batteries for many applications, but some, where extreme durability and lifespan are required, might not be satisfied just yet."

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