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Enhanced Water Adsorption MOF Composites on Metal Foam Substrates for Durable and Efficient Air Conditioning Applications

MOFs grown on metal foam yield durable, high-uptake desiccants for compact, energy-efficient AC/dehumidification.

Researchers have developed a novel desiccant composite system with high moisture adsorption efficiency and mechanical durability for air conditioning applications. This innovative system addresses key limitations of traditional desiccants by integrating metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) with porous metal foams to create structurally robust, high-surface-area composites. The new approach may use a variety of synthesis techniques to anchor MOFs directly onto chemically treated substrates, ensuring strong interfacial bonding and uniform coating. Additionally, by incorporating hygroscopic additives and functionalizing with hydrophilic groups, the composite achieves superior water uptake, particularly under low humidity conditions. This multifunctional material system supports stable, repeated adsorption-desorption cycles while improving thermal management and mechanical integrity. The scalable design enables deployment in compact, energy-efficient air conditioning systems, offering a sustainable alternative to conventional cooling technologies and supporting broader climate adaptation goals.

Technology Validation:

The MOF-based desiccant composite system was validated through lab-scale performance testing to evaluate its water adsorption capacity and mechanical durability under repeated cycling. The composite demonstrated a water uptake increase of over 50% under 30% relative humidity, with less than 5% performance degradation after 500 adsorption-desorption cycles. The testing results confirmed that the composite system can sustain high-efficiency moisture control over extended use, making it a viable solution for long-term, energy-efficient air conditioning applications.

Technology ID
2025-CHEN-70955

Category
Materials Science & Nanotechnology/Composites & Hybrid Materials
Buildings, Infrastructure, & Construction/HVAC & Building Energy Efficiency
Buildings, Infrastructure, & Construction/Demand-Responsive Heating & Cooling Systems

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Advantages:

- High moisture adsorption efficiency

- High mechanical durability

- High thermal conductivity

- Scalable and versatile manufacturing methods

- Long-term reusability and stability

Applications:

- Energy-efficient air conditioning systems

- Dehumidification in HVAC systems

- Portable and compact cooling devices

- Moisture control in storage and packaging

TRL: 3

Intellectual Property:

Provisional-Patent, 2024-12-06, United States

Keywords: Advanced Materials, Air Conditioning, desiccant technology, Energy Efficiency, Green Technology, humidity control, Materials and Manufacturing, metal-organic frameworks (MOFs), MOF composites, sustainable cooling, Thermal Management