

Can a solar transpiration-powered lithium extraction and storage device extract and store lithium?

Inspired by nature's ability to selectively extract species in transpiration, we report a solar transpiration-powered lithium extraction and storage (STLES) device that can extract and store lithium from brines using natural sunlight.

Is lithium a viable raw material for green energy?

Nat. Rev. Earth Environ., 149-165 (2023). V. Flexer, C. F. Baspineiro, C. I. Galli, Lithium recovery from brines: A vital raw material for green energies with a potential environmental impact in its mining and processing. Sci. Total Environ. 639, 1188-1204 (2018).

Why is lithium mining so expensive?

Jake S. Yeston and Marc S. Lavine Lithium mining is energy intensive and environmentally costly. This is because lithium ions are typically present in brines as a minor component mixed with physiochemically similar cations that are difficult to separate.

Could lithium mining be a cleaner alternative to traditional lithium mining?

According to researchers from Nanjing University and the University of California, Berkeley, the approach offers a cleaner alternative to traditional lithium mining, which often involves harmful chemical processes and significant land disruption.

Does lithium carbonate save energy?

The new design also works with harsh brines, even those with high magnesium levels and very low lithium concentrations, and can still produce over 99.95 percent pure lithium carbonate suitable for batteries. Researchers claim that it saves up to 21.5 percent in energy by efficiently using the osmotic energy from the brines.

Can a stles device extract lithium from brines at ambient conditions?

This work reports the design and demonstration of a STLES device that extracts lithium from brines at ambient conditions by using natural sunlight, requiring no arable land, and generating near-zero greenhouse gas. STLES presents several advantages over current and emerging lithium extraction approaches.

An energy system powered by clean energy technologies differs profoundly from one fuelled by traditional hydrocarbon resources. Solar photovoltaic (PV) plants, wind farms and electric vehicles (EVs) generally require more minerals to ...

Mature technology in the alkali mining industry allows the price of Na_2CO_3 to remain relatively stable. In renewable energy, grid storage, cost and product price stability are ...

Optimal sizing of a lithium battery energy storage system for grid-connected photovoltaic systems ... Vojtech Svoboda et al., "Operating conditions of batteries in off-grid renewable energy ...

Several mines have started down this path, integrating wind or solar photovoltaic (PV) generation with short duration lithium ion batteries. These configurations typically ...

A third of global cobalt is used for EV batteries, and more than two-thirds of the world's cobalt comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo. A 2021 study by Bamana et al. reported that 15-20% of Congolese cobalt is ...

The Kathleen Valley lithium project is poised to become a key player in the global lithium market, contributing to the supply chain for electric vehicles (EVs) and battery energy ...

With this inspiration, we developed a solar transpiration-powered lithium extraction and storage (STLES) device, with the goal of greener lithium mining. Its structure and working principle are ...

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