

Supporting Information for

Hybridized Mechanical and Solar Energies Driven Self-Powered Hydrogen Production

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Supplementary Figures

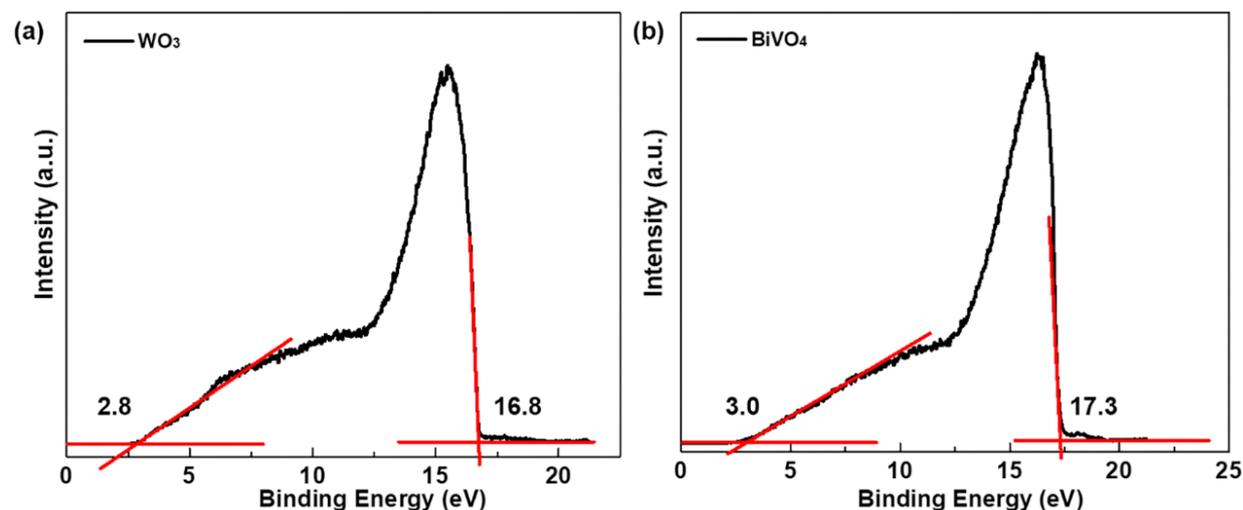


Fig. S1 UPS spectra of (a) WO_3 and (b) BiVO_4 . The top of valence band is calculated to be about -7.2 eV and -6.9 eV (compared to the vacuum level) by subtracting the width of the He I UPS spectrum from the excitation energy (21.2 eV)

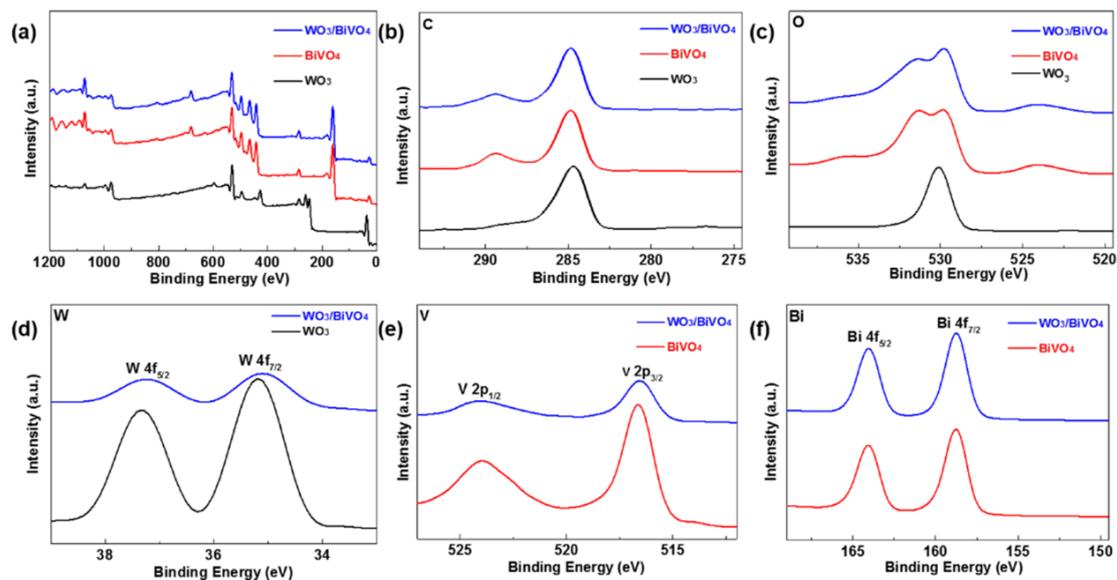


Fig. S2 XPS analysis of the WO_3 , BiVO_4 and $\text{WO}_3/\text{BiVO}_4$ photoanodes: (a) Three pristine prepared photoanodes, (b) C, (c) O, (d) W 4f, (e) V 2p, and (f) Bi 4f spectra

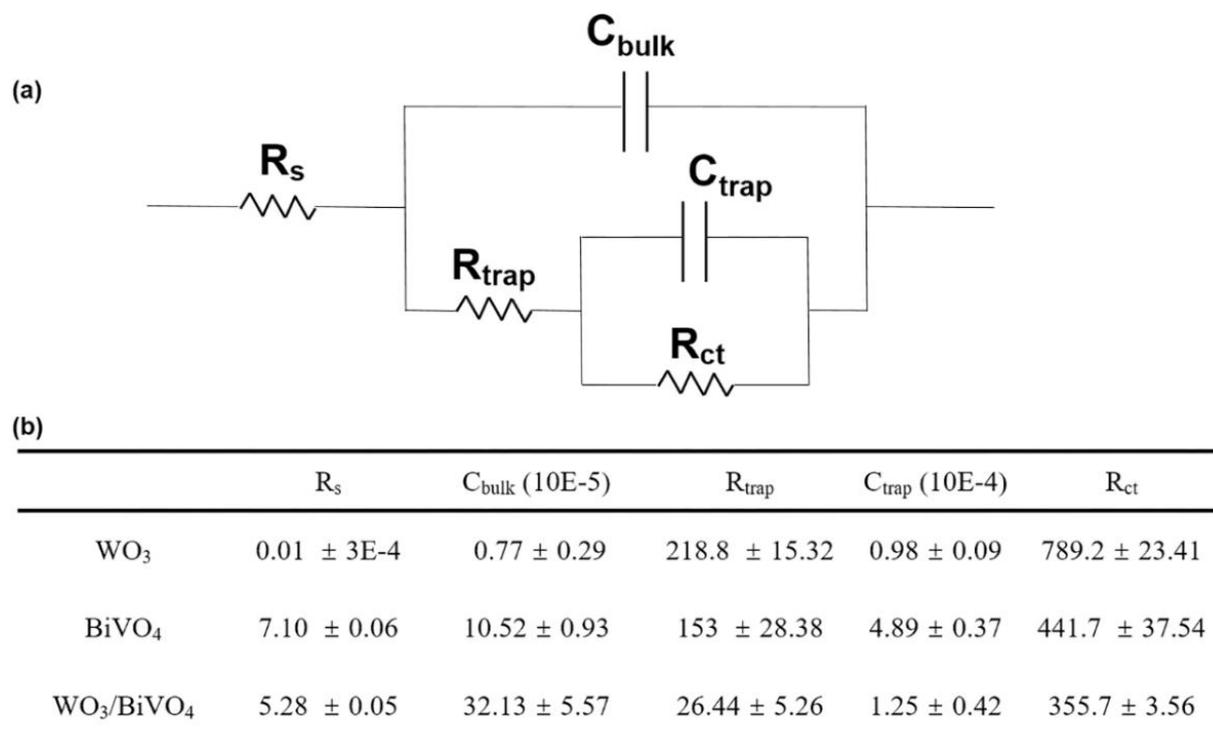


Fig. S3 (a) The equivalent circuit of EIS experimental test. (b) Parameters of equivalent circuit elements. R_s is the series resistances. C_{bulk} is the capacitance of the space charge depletion region at the electrode surface. R_{trap} is the resistance for trapping holes by surface states. C_{trap} shows the amount of active sites in surface states. R_{ct} is the resistance for charge transfer across the interface.

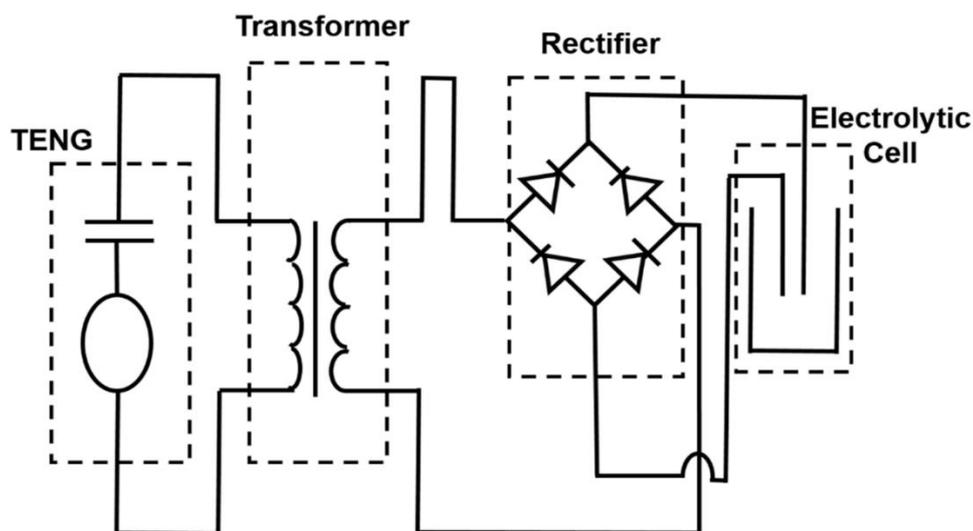


Fig. S4 Equivalent circuit of the self-powered solar hydrogen generation system

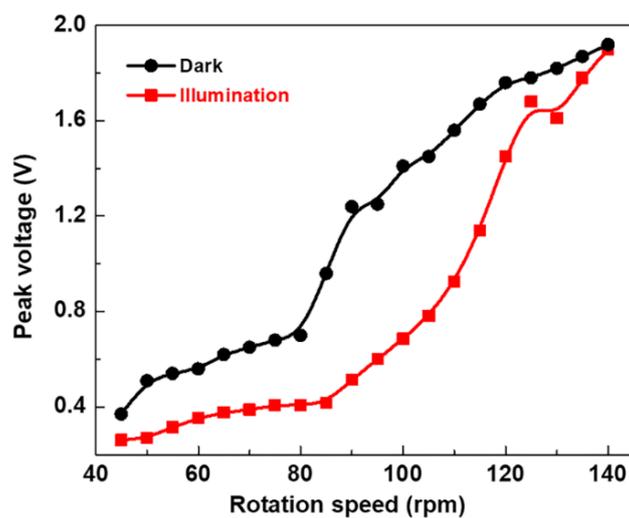


Fig. S5 Peak voltage as a function of different rotation speeds in the dark or under illumination

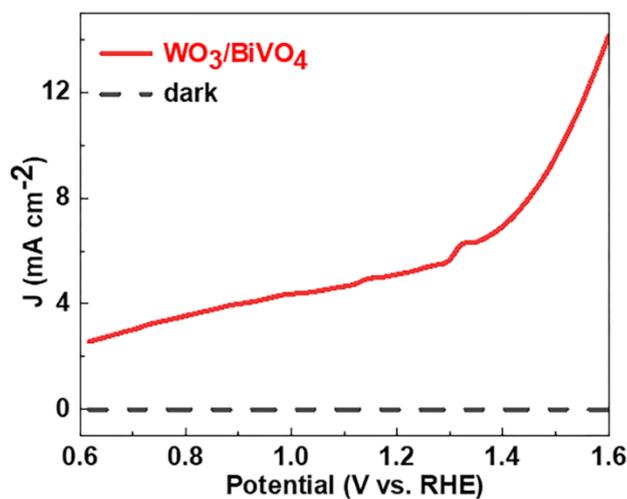


Fig. S6 J - V curves of WO₃/BiVO₄ electrodes measured in dark and under illumination

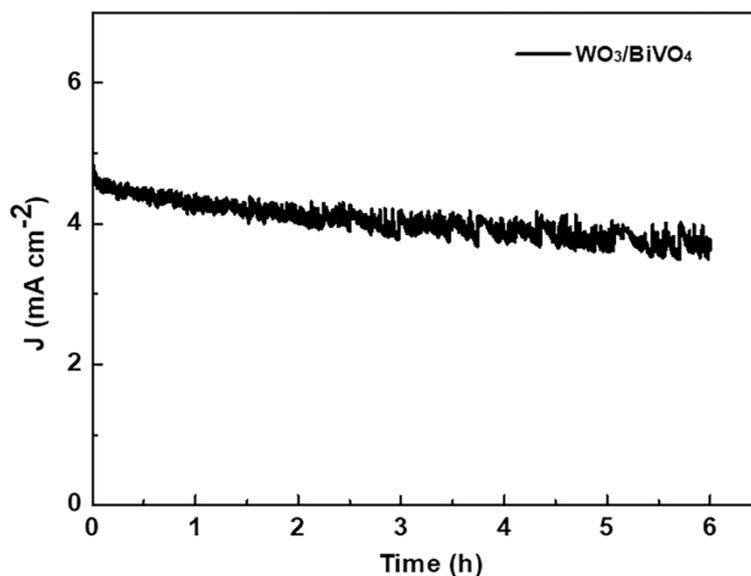


Fig. S7 Photochemical stability curve for the $\text{WO}_3/\text{BiVO}_4$ photoanode collected at 1.23 V vs. RHE over 6 h

Supporting Note S1

Figure S1 shows the UPS spectra of WO_3 and BiVO_4 . E_{cutoff} is determined by linear extrapolation to zero of the yield of secondary electrons. From Fig. S1, $E_{\text{cutoff}} = 16.8$ eV for WO_3 and $E_{\text{cutoff}} = 17.3$ eV for BiVO_4 . The HOMO energy is determined using the incident photon energy, $h\nu = 21.2$ eV, E_{cutoff} , and E_{onset} . Also, $E_{\text{onset}} = 2.8$ eV for WO_3 and $E_{\text{onset}} = 3.0$ eV for BiVO_4 . Thus, the HOMO energies are obtained directly from the UPS measurements,

$$E_{\text{HOMO}} = h\nu - (E_{\text{cutoff}} - E_{\text{onset}}) \quad (\text{S1})$$

For WO_3 , $E_{\text{HOMO}} = -7.2$ eV, and $E_{\text{HOMO}} = -6.9$ eV for BiVO_4 . The LUMO energies were calculated using the HOMO levels and the optical gaps (E_g) obtained from the onset of absorption (Fig. 1f). $E_g = 2.58$ eV for WO_3 and $E_g = 2.41$ eV for BiVO_4 . Thus for WO_3 , $E_{\text{LUMO}} = -4.62$ eV; and $E_{\text{LUMO}} = -4.49$ eV for BiVO_4 .

Supporting Note S2

The slopes from the Mott-Schottky plots are used to estimate the carrier densities using Eq. S2:

$$N_d = (2/e_0\epsilon\epsilon_0)[d(1/C^2)/dV]^{-1} \quad (\text{S2})$$

where e_0 is the electron charge (1.602×10^{-19} C), ϵ is the dielectric constant of WO_3 (2.3), BiVO_4 (60), ϵ_0 is the permittivity of vacuum (8.854×10^{-12} F m^{-1}), N_d is the donor density and V is the potential applied at the electrode. Capacitances were derived from the electrochemical impedance obtained at each potential with 10,000 Hz frequency in the dark. The Mott-Schottky slopes of both samples are positive which indicates that they are n-type semiconductors with electrons as majority carriers. The slopes are used to estimate carrier densities. The charge carrier densities after calculation for WO_3 and BiVO_4 are 6.81×10^{23} and 7.30×10^{19} cm^{-3} , respectively. Moreover, BiVO_4 can only be considered as a modification in our experiment and very small quantity, so the result of the $\text{WO}_3/\text{BiVO}_4$ heterojunction

can be supposed to be as the WO_3 , while the value is $6.81 \times 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-3}$. The higher carrier density of the $\text{WO}_3/\text{BiVO}_4$ heterojunction photoanode compared with the individual sample BiVO_4 could partly provide a benefit to the performance.

Supporting Note S3

$$\text{Overall energy conversion efficiency } (\eta) = \frac{\text{Output Energy}}{\text{Total Input Energy}} = \frac{E_1}{E_2 + E_3}$$

where E_1 is the energy of produced hydrogen involved, E_2 is the input mechanical energy to drive a RD-TENG, and E_3 is the input sunlight light energy.

When the rotation speed is 160 rpm, the calculation process of different energies is as follows:

(1) Under illumination, the H_2 production rates reached $7.27 \mu\text{L}/\text{min}$, thus,

$$E_1 = n_1 \Delta G = \frac{7.27 \times 10^{-6}}{22.4} \times 237 \times 10^3 = 7.69 \times 10^{-2} \text{ J}$$

Under dark, the H_2 production rates reached $5.45 \mu\text{L}/\text{min}$, thus

$$E_1' = n_1' \Delta G = \frac{5.45 \times 10^{-6}}{22.4} \times 237 \times 10^3 = 5.77 \times 10^{-2} \text{ J}$$

where n_1 and n_1' is moles of hydrogen under illumination and dark, ΔG is standard Gibbs free energy.

(2) The rated torque of the rotary motor to drive the RD-TENG is 8.5 N m , thus,

$$E_2 = \frac{T \cdot n}{9550} \cdot t = \frac{8.5 \times 160}{9550} \times 1000 \times \frac{1}{3600} \times 60\text{s} = 2.37 \text{ J}$$

where T is the torque of the rotary motor, n is the rotation speed, t is the time.

(3) All illuminated area is 0.1 cm^2 , thus,

$$E_3 = P \cdot S \cdot t = 1000\text{W}/\text{m}^2 \times (0.1 \times 10^{-4}) \text{ m}^2 \times 60\text{s} = 0.6 \text{ J}$$

where P is the optical power density, S is the illuminated area, t is the time.

In conclusion,

$$\eta = \frac{E_1}{E_2 + E_3} \times 100\% = 2.59\%$$

$$\eta' = \frac{E_1'}{E_2} \times 100\% = 2.43\%$$