Fuel Cells

Fuel cells contain two electrodes, the anode and cathode, separated by an electrolyte that blocks the movement of electrons.

The anode gets a charge from hydrogen gas flowing from a reservoir.

The cathode gets a charge from oxygen in the air.

In the anode, hydrogen gas molecules separate into electrons and hydrogen ions.

- 1. The hydrogen ions pass through the electrolyte.
- 2. The electrons are forced through an external circuit, generating direct current.

In the cathode, electrons, hydrogen ions and oxygen combine to form water. This reaction also generates heat that can be recovered.