

Chennai-based Paterson Energy has come up with an innovative solution to the planet's plastic woes. The startup converts plastic waste into liquid fuel that is eco-friendly, cheaper and can be used to fuel generators, industrial boilers, and furnaces, among others. The start-up was founded by husband-wife duo Vidya and Amarnath Maitreyan in 2016. It has, since then, managed to convert a whopping 150 tonnes of plastic waste into energy-efficient fuel.

"Plastic is a wonderful man-made invention with great functionality and ability to ease modern day packaging dilemma. But how and when this 20th century invention that eased our lives became the Frankenstein monster, is a story in itself. Only valuable plastics are getting recycled and the low value plastic still ends up in landfills and oceans. Paterson Energy tries to bridge this gap by incorporating all kinds of plastic," Vidya tells The Better India. The company has an ongoing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Berlin University of Technology for research and development on plastic technologies. Locally, they have signed a MoU with SSN University and Vellore Institute of Technology for research and development purposes. The startup uses the thermo-chemical depolymerisation process which is essentially decomposition or degradation of plastic materials at very high temperatures (up to 500 degree celsius) in the absence of oxygen. "Our technology is committed in bringing back plastic to its original form i.e. crude oil. We are different from recyclers. Our intention is to generate a circular economy," signs off the duo.