

Master Thesis Brief Description

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| Thesis Title | Pyrolysis of Plastic Waste into Hydrocarbons |
| Programme of Studies | MSc in Sustainable Energy Systems |
| Course | MES 580 MSc Thesis |
| Area of Study | Sustainable Energy Technologies – Biofuels |
| Student's Name | Maria Mela |
| Students Reg. Number | 18682 |
| Supervisor | Dr.-Ing. Paris A. Fokaides, Asst. Professor, Mechanical Engineering Department |
| Supervisory Committee | Dr Chris Christodoulou, Professor, Mechanical Engineering Department Dr. George Karagiorgis, Professor, Mechanical Engineering Department |
| Semester | Fall Semester 2021 |
| Short Description | <p>This master thesis addresses the pressing issue of non-biodegradable plastic waste, which accumulates in Municipal Solid Waste and littered areas. Traditional recycling methods have limitations, and the dependence on conventional energy sources for processing plastics further exacerbates the environmental impact. The report explores plastic pyrolysis as an alternative method to convert plastic waste into hydrocarbon fuels, with a focus on utilizing solar thermal energy as the primary energy source. The process involves the thermal degradation of materials into long-chain hydrocarbons, which are then further thermally degraded into smaller chain hydrocarbon fuels. While fast pyrolysis with a catalyst is commonly used at temperatures between 500°C and 900°C, this study concentrates on slow solar pyrolysis at a lower temperature of 350°C, harnessing the sun as the main heating energy source. The simulation in this study demonstrates the production of Benzene and Ethane through the pyrolysis of PET, PP, and PS plastics, using solar thermal energy collected by Parabolic Trough Collectors. This research contributes valuable insights into utilizing solar thermal energy for sustainable plastic waste management and hydrocarbon fuel production, promoting a greener and more efficient approach to plastic waste treatment.</p> |