Starches decompose easily and can be fermented into biofuels. To begin the process, starchy biomass is ground up and combined with water to form a mash. Enzymes are added to break down the starch into simple sugars like glucose. The enzymes can be common alpha amylase enzymes, such as those found in human saliva.

The mash is fed to a high temperature cooker in order to reduce bacteria levels. It is then cooled and transferred to fermenters. Yeast is added to convert the sugars into ethanol and CO₂. The mixture is fermented for 40 to 50 hours.

The ethanol is distilled from other substances in the mixture. It is then concentrated and dehydrated. The ethanol is often blended with a substance that makes it undrinkable. It is now ready for use as a transport fuel.