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## Guatemalan inventors transform used bikes into people-powered machines

Maya Pedal is a nonprofit in Guatemala that invents pedal-powered machines made from used bicycles that operate wells, husk and sort grain, and even power blenders. They distribute the machines to the community, making life easier and even allowing families to start businesses.

The machines, called "bicimaquinas," are open source – PDF instructions are available [on their website](#) and have been built in Tibet, Ghana, Peru and many other countries. Maya Pedal is now planning to open a School for Appropriate Technology, where students from around the world can learn to develop sustainable technology that meets the needs of specific communities.

The organization is a finalist for this year's [Curry Stone Design Prize](#), awarded every year to great design that improves lives.

### Link

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