

# Why Open Source?

## Open source engineering at AguaClara is...

A response to the fact that current technologies for cleaning water are unavailable to the majority of those who still need clean, safe water.

Learning from the [GNU/Linux](#) open-source model for computer software and adapting that open source model for engineering design.

Committed to creating design tools that will make it possible for engineers in the Global South to build municipal scale drinking water treatment plants. This engineering design service is available [here](#) on our website. We are committed to providing this service free of charge in the hope that [Implementation Partners](#) will be able to use it to leverage increased funding for improving drinking water infrastructure in the Global South.

Open-handed, shared freely, published rather than patented, empowering rather than controlling.

A hope that by opening the gates of knowledge, fewer communities will resort to building untested technologies that all too often become the white elephants that litter the landscape in the Global South.

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