

Ripple Effects International
<https://rippleeffectsinternational.org/>

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Ripple Effects International (<https://rippleeffectsinternational.org/>) is a collaborative, cross-cultural initiative with the goals of helping people focus on and learn more about the natural world, understand the global and local effects of climate change, and connect to and develop empathy for others. In a Ripple Effects project, people take photos of water in their world – of any kind - write reflections about what the images mean to them, and then those images and reflections are published or circulated in some way in the local community. Through Ripple Effects International, there is the opportunity to see and connect to similar projects by people across the world. Ripple Effects projects use photography and writing to draw on the different advantages and qualities of these modes of communication to engage people in different ways of thinking about and appreciating the natural world and their role in it and to have their voices heard in their communities. Ripple Effects projects can take place with people of any age. Ripple Effects International was started by Mary Brydon-Miller and Bronwyn Williams, of the University of Louisville, to provide a space where people from around the world can share images and ideas to learn sustainability, conservation, and the different ways we connect to water in our world. We also plan to collect and provide access to resources for teachers and community members to support creating their own Ripple Effects projects, as well as resources for environmental and literacy education.

Ripple Effects projects have been organized through libraries, primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, youth groups, or other community organizations. We are in the early stages, but so far Ripple Effects projects have taken place or are being planned in Australia, Canada, Finland, India, Japan, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States. We are eager to have others participate in this project by holding Ripple Effects projects in their communities. We're also open to interest in helping with the Ripple Effects International project, whether helping with the research or developing the website and so on. We are currently looking for funding to help support the project. If you are interested in knowing more about Ripple Effects International, or planning your own project, please contact Bronwyn Williams (bronwyn.williams@louisville.edu).