How many students have you known who were smart and creative; but got turned off to science because they didn’t do well on tests and lab reports? Cool Science represents a successful project aimed at engaging and recognizing these non-traditional science learners. The project provides a climate change art competition for K-12 students throughout Massachusetts. Over the last two years, Cool Science received more than 1000 works of art from students representing dozens of school districts across the Commonwealth. Each year, students representing elementary, middle, and high schools are recognized for their outstanding climate change science artworks. Each year, the best entries go on public display by Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA). It is an unforgettable experience to see student artwork traveling around the city on a bus!

Cool Science is successful because it does three things really well:

1. **Cool Science recognizes the non-traditional science learner** with opportunities to express understanding outside the expected tests and lab reports. Not all students can fit easily into a narrow view of science learning. Cool Science aims to engage the science students who have interest and abilities in the visual arts.

2. **Cool Science uses the student artwork to engage the riding public** with the science of a changing climate. Research indicates that the adult riders felt more informed and interested in climate change as a result of the student artwork.

3. **Cool Science provides an efficient synergistic education project.** For a relatively little funding, Cool Science is able to bring climate change to diverse and important audiences in both formal and informal learning environments. Such project efficiency is rare and each year, the project gets better at reducing cost and increasing participation.

Climate Change is one of the greatest challenges facing our generation. Using the visual arts as a medium, Cool Science engages teachers, parents, and students in climate change science. Then, by displaying the winning student artwork on buses, we foster informal science learning among the riding public. Using children’s artwork to communicate complex scientific issues becomes a powerful learning experience for both the artist and the audience.

Visit [www.CoolScience.net](http://www.CoolScience.net) to see previous winning artwork. If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact us directly.