

## Idle-Wise Campaign

The **Climate Change** group met this past fall to explore both the meaning and extent of climate change, and group members' specific interests for action in the face of this immense and multi-faceted problem.

The first result was **Idle-Wise!** – a campaign to reduce vehicles' idling times in order to reduce air pollution and improve community health outcomes – especially in school zones.

The project had three facets:

- 1) A survey of all schools was done to see how many had “no idling” signs outside in the parent pick-up areas.
- 2) A resource package, which included background information, a flyer, a parent note, and a quiz, was delivered to all schools in Stratford.
- 3) The group met with the mayor, the by-law officer and the police, to pass on our school idling signs survey, along with copies of the package, in an effort to increase signage and to recommend enforcement.

Additionally, committee members posted anti-idling flyers throughout Stratford.

The project goal was to diminish the number of parents waiting to pick up students at the end of the day, sitting in idling cars, for the health of students, and to diminish adding additional pollution to our air. In the fall we plan to review the sign numbers at local schools, and prepare follow-up documents for the schools, the by-law officers, and the police.

