Mac-Gray Campus Solutions recognizes that carbon offsetting is not without controversy, but also understands that offsetting is a viable short-term component of achieving carbon neutrality as outlined by the ACUPCC (American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment). Our Lighten the Load initiative allows the University at Albany, your students and their parents to enjoy the benefits of participating in a worldwide effort to raise environmental awareness and to invest in emerging technologies and proven ways of negating a carbon footprint.

Of course, reducing energy consumption is the first and most important step, which is why Mac-Gray Campus Solutions recommends installing water and energy-efficient laundry machines at the University at Albany. We have calculated that the existing washers and dryers combined with the new machines to be installed on campus over summer break will emit 776,939 pounds of CO2 annually, of which we will offset 100%. This will make the the University at Albany one of the first colleges in the state and in the Northeast to have a carbon-neutral campus laundry operation.

Using the guidelines set forth by the November 2008 ACUPCC Voluntary Carbon Offsets Protocol we have chosen to invest in offsetting projects through our partner, Carbonfund.org. For more information, visit www.carbonfund.org or www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org and select the Offset Protocol to learn more.

In order to be fully compatible with the ACUPCC protocol, only projects that represent absolute and immediate GHG reductions will be funded through our purchase. Mac-Gray Campus Solutions will present the University at Albany with a custom-framed certificate acknowledging our mutual commitment to environmental preservation. We will also help promote your carbon balanced laundry program to your students and the academic community through HTML emails, press releases or any other medium which you would like to explore. Over the past four years, we’ve invested over $199,000 on behalf of our academic partners to offset over 44 million pounds of laundry related carbon emissions.

Mac-Gray will make the University at Albany one of the first colleges in the state and in the Northeast to have a carbon neutral campus laundry operation!