Greater reliance on natural gas to fuel the Blackstone Steam Plant has significantly reduced GHG emissions. Compared to 2006, the plant now emits 16% fewer Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalents (MTCDE) for every one million pounds of steam produced. (the plant generates about 679 million pounds of steam annually)

Other recent plant improvements include the installation of a back-pressure turbine and high efficiency boiler. The turbine can generate more than 5-megawatts of electricity, enough to power about 1,000 homes, as a byproduct of the steam flowing out to heat campus buildings (a process known as cogeneration or combined heat and power). Self-generating this electricity will offset approximately 6,000 MTCDE from purchased electricity annually. The new boiler is expected to reduce plant emissions by an additional 2% or 2,000 MTCDE per year.