Groundwater Use in Delaware

Overview

Total
Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline) 170
Percentage of total freshwater supply for state 31.8%

Public Supply
Groundwater (mgd) 45.8
Percentage of total groundwater 26.9%
Percentage of total public supply 53.0%

Individual Household
Groundwater (mgd) 14.5
Percentage of total groundwater 8.53%
Percentage of total individual household supply 100%

Irrigation
Groundwater (mgd) 95.4
Percentage of total groundwater 56.1%
Percentage of total irrigation 84.4%

Livestock/Aquaculture
Groundwater (mgd) 3.32
Percentage of total groundwater 1.95%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture 100%

Industrial, Self-Supplied
Groundwater (mgd) 10.7
Percentage of total groundwater 6.29%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied 3.54%

Mining
Groundwater (mgd) 0.34
Percentage of total groundwater 0.2%
Percentage of total mining 52.3%

Thermoelectric
Groundwater (mgd) 0.13
Percentage of total groundwater 0.08%
Percentage of total thermoelectric 0.90%

Groundwater’s Role in Delaware’s Economic Vitality

- Approximately 75,400 known residential wells statewide.
- 210 community water systems use groundwater for 452,300 people
- 93 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 24,000 people
- 193 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 48,400 people
- 1,560 irrigation wells used serving 344 farms and 109,000 acres

(mgd = million gallons per day)

*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

2 Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Water Supply and Well Permitting Section
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.
Delaware’s Groundwater Industry Employment

Men and women working to provide and protect Delaware’s groundwater resources for the benefit of people, business, and our environment.

Delaware’s Contracting Employment
Drill and service water wells, install and service pumps, install and service point of use water treatment devices. This portion of the industry is characterized by small firms, many of which are multi-generation family-owned and operated.7

- 8 firms employ an estimated 25 people
- Annual estimated sales of $12.8 million

Delaware’s Scientists and Engineers Employment
Geologists, hydrogeologists, engineers, geochemists, geophysicists, microbiologists, regulators.

Environmental Consulting8
NAICS 54162: Establishments primarily engaged in providing advice and assistance on environmental issues, such as the control of environmental contamination from pollutants, toxic substances, and hazardous materials.

- 120 firms employ an estimated 442 people
- Annual estimated sales of $87.9 million

Remediation9
NAICS 56291: Establishments include those engaged in remediation and cleanup of contaminated buildings, mine sites, soil, or groundwater.

- 25 firms employ an estimated 221 people
- Annual estimated sales of $53.4 million

Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers
- Many more dedicated individuals

---

7 InfoUSA, SIC 1781, June 2019.