Water Use in the United States

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Water-Use Websites

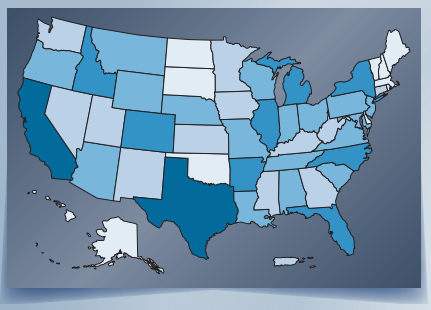
Explore the world of water use and enhance your understanding with internet resources and tools from the USGS!

What does the website look like?	What does the website provide?	Where is the website?

USGS Water Availability and Use Science Program

The website provides information about the Water Availability and Use Science Program (WAUSP), which was formed in October 2015 in response to the SECURE (Science and Engineering to Comprehensively Understand and Responsibly Enhance) Water Act passed by Congress in 2009. Find out about the status of the water resources of the United States, what water-use data are available online, water-use tools, the National Water Census, and more.

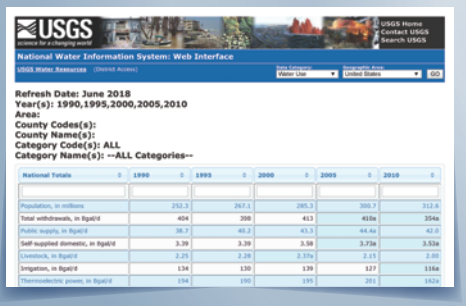
https://www.usgs.gov/water-resources/water-availability-and-use-science-program



Water Use in the United States

Find maps, graphs, and reports from the USGS National Water-Use Science Project. The USGS works in cooperation with local, State, and Federal environmental agencies to collect water-use information. The USGS compiles these data to produce water-use information aggregated at the county, state, and national levels. Water-use data are sometimes available by aquifer or watershed.

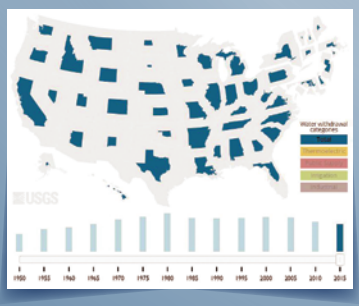
https://water.usgs.gov/watuse/



National Water Information System: Web Interface—USGS Water-Use Data for the Nation

Access water-use data by state and other selected areas. Data are organized by national data (1950–2015) and state data (1985–2015 [by state or by county totals]). Water-use data also are available for the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Data are available for public supply, domestic, industrial, thermoelectric power, mining, livestock, aquaculture, and irrigation water-use categories.

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/wu



U.S. Water Use from 1950 to the Present

Explore where and how the Nation's water use has changed with time. The USGS Water Availability and Use Science Program has documented how and where we have used water for the last 65 years.

The water-use visualization showcases the changes in freshwater water use with time, region, states, and major water-use categories.

https://owi.usgs.gov/vizlab/water-use/

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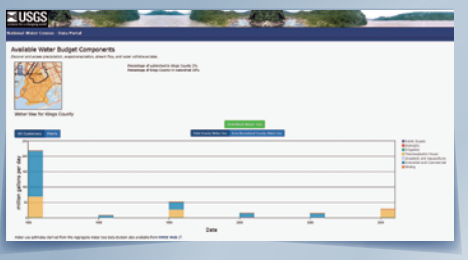
USGS National Water Census

Find products and displays for assessing water availability at the regional and national scales. The USGS is integrating diverse research and enhancing the understanding between water quality and water availability. Products include reports for focus area studies. Recent reports are on a conceptual model to assess water use associated with the life cycle of unconventional oil and gas development and simulations of hydrologic response in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin, Southeastern United States.

https://water.usgs.gov/watercensus/

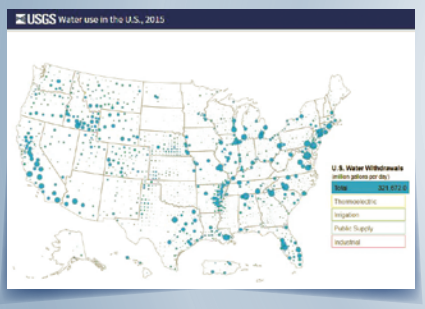


USGS National Water Census-Data Portal

Use the National Water Census-Data Portal to obtain national estimates of water budget components for local watersheds, water withdrawal data for counties, tools to calculate statistics of daily streamflow records, modeled daily streamflow at ungaged stations, and access to records of aquatic biology observations.

For water-use data, select "Water Budget," pick the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC; watershed numbering system) Layer "HUC-Layer," zoom to an area of interest on the map and click on a "Watershed" on the map, select "Plot County Water-Use Data," and select a county on the map.

http://cida.usgs.gov/nwc/



USGS Water Use in the United States, 2015

Explore county water withdrawals for the United States for 2015 to see which areas of the United States have the highest withdrawals.

Graphics include:

- all categories,
- thermoelectric,
- irrigation,
- public supply, and
- industrial.

https://owi.usgs.gov/vizlab/water-use-15/

USGS Water-Use Terminology

The website provides information to help gain a better understanding of water-use terms used by the USGS and how water-use terminology and categories have changed in the USGS water-use circulars throughout the years.

The website information can help answer the following questions:

- What does the USGS consider fresh and saline water sources?
- What is aquaculture?
- What is consumptive water use?

https://water.usgs.gov/watuse/wuglossary.html

The USGS Water Science School

Find educational resources from the USGS Water Science School on many aspects of water—like the interactive diagram on the "water" cycle. Explore pictures, data, maps, and an interactive center where you can give opinions and test your water knowledge.

A helpful handout for teachers is at https://education.usgs.gov/docs/USGSEducResources.pdf (not pictured).

https://water.usgs.gov/edu/

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or visit the USGS Water-Use website at http://water.usgs.gov/watuse.