

# Groundwater Use for Rhode Island<sup>1</sup>

## Total

Groundwater (mgd—fresh, not saline) .....	29
Percentage of total water supply for state .....	21%

## Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) .....	16
Percentage of total groundwater .....	55%
Percentage of total public supply .....	14%

## Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) .....	6
Percentage of total groundwater .....	21%
Percentage of total individual household supply .....	100%

## Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) .....	5
Percentage of total groundwater .....	19%
Percentage of total irrigation .....	100%

## Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) .....	0
Percentage of total groundwater .....	2%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture .....	8%

## Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) .....	1
Percentage of total groundwater .....	2%
Percentage of total industrial .....	100%

## Mining

Groundwater (mgd) .....	1
Percentage of total groundwater .....	2%
Percentage of total mining .....	35%

## Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) .....	0
Percentage of total groundwater .....	0%
Percentage of total thermoelectric .....	0%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

## Groundwater's Role in Rhode Island's Economic Vitality

- 85,900 residents served by privately owned individual wells<sup>1</sup>
- 45,838 households served by privately owned individual wells<sup>2</sup>
- 455 community water systems use groundwater for 230,339 people<sup>3</sup>
- 78 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 27,763 people<sup>4</sup>
- 316 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 54,859 people<sup>5</sup>
- 36 irrigation wells used serving 32 farms and 90 acres<sup>6</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> US Geological Survey, October 2009 report on 2005 water use.

<sup>2</sup> Based on 1990 Census data, last year in which household wells were counted.

<sup>3</sup> US EPA Factoids: Drinking Water and Ground Water Statistics for 2008.

<sup>4</sup> US EPA Factoids: Drinking Water and Ground Water Statistics for 2008.

<sup>5</sup> US EPA Factoids: Drinking Water and Ground Water Statistics for 2008.

<sup>6</sup> 2007 Census of Agriculture, Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey (2008).

# Rhode Island's Groundwater Industry Employment

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

## Rhode Island'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.<sup>7</sup>

- 23 firms employ an estimated 131 people<sup>8</sup>
- Annual estimated sales of \$6,407,000



## Rhode Island's Scientists & Engineers Employment

Geologists, hydrogeologists, engineers, geochemists, geophysicists, microbiologists, regulators.<sup>9</sup>

### Hazardous Waste Management Firms

- 6 firms employ an estimated 196 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$24 million

### Remediation & Industrial Service Firms

- 11 firms employ an estimated 519 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$50 million

### Environmental Consulting Firms

- 16 firms employ an estimated 613 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$55 million

### Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers

- Many more dedicated individuals



## Sampling of Rhode Island Manufacturers & Wholesalers

Amtrol Inc.



<sup>7</sup> U.S. Census data for employee (1997) and non-employee firms (2002).

<sup>8</sup> 5.7 employees per firm, Research USA for *Water Well Journal*, September 2003

<sup>9</sup> *Environmental Industry of the United States*, US Commerce, January 1999.