Fresh water is an essential element in the everyday life of this and all urban regions. The map shows the water withdrawals per capita. The figures are calculated from both the ground water and surface water withdrawals both by public suppliers and domestic users.

On average the US uses 163 gallons per capita each and every day. The greatest per capital withdrawals are in the areas surrounding the large cities. In counties such as Putnam NY, Hunterdon NJ, Worcester MA and Montgomery MD water withdrawal is much larger than the national average.

Water withdrawal rates are comparatively low in the very urbanized parts of the region simply because much of the groundwater has already been used and the surface water is too polluted in some cases to be used. There seems to be a life cycle in water withdrawal; cities draw on immediate local sources in their early years but as cities develop the immediate surrounding regions are no longer able to provide enough water so withdrawal is displaced to areas further out. The map reveals the displacement of water withdrawal to the more suburban parts of the local urban regions.

NOTE: Water Withdrawals for Domestic Use are calculated from the following values for each US county/county-equivalent: Ground-water withdrawals by public suppliers, Surface-water withdrawals by public suppliers, Self-supplied ground-water withdrawals for domestic use, Self-supplied surface-water withdrawals for domestic use, Total population.