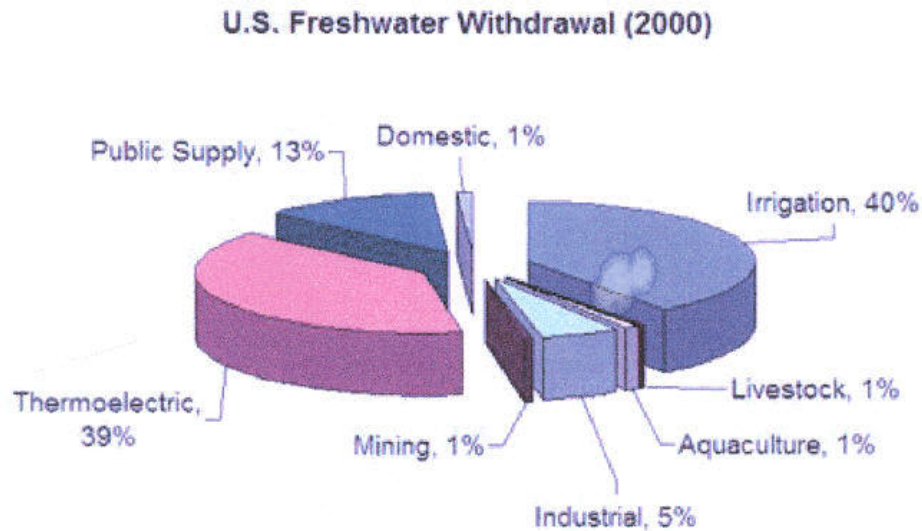


Ricky Crews

Southeast RCAP

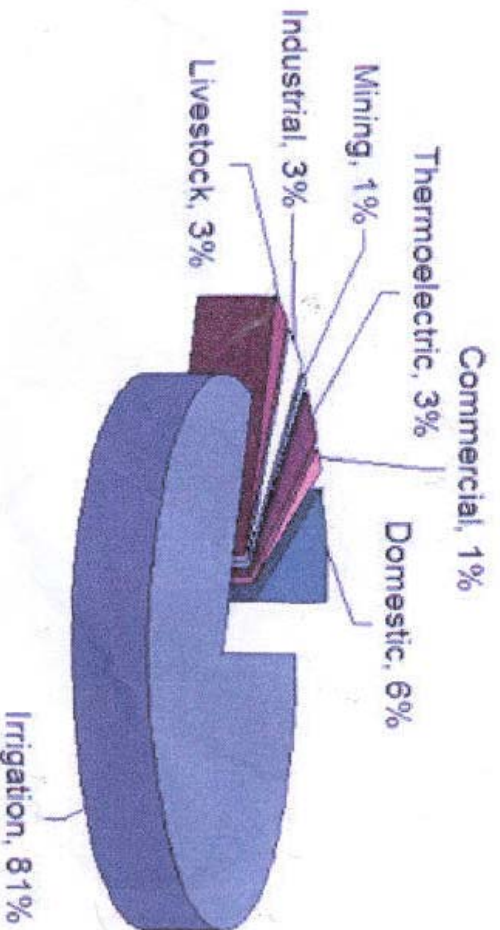
According to United States Geological Survey (USGS) water use survey data, thermoelectric generation accounted for 39% (136 billion gallons per day (BGD)) of all freshwater withdrawals in the nation in 2000, which is second only to irrigation. The following figure illustrates the percentage of total U.S. freshwater withdrawals by source category for 2000.



Source: United States Geological Survey.  
Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2000.

It is important to distinguish between water withdrawal and water consumption. Water withdrawal represents the total water taken from a source while water consumption represents the amount of that water withdrawal that is not returned to the source, generally lost to evaporation. Freshwater consumption data for the year 1995 (the most recent year for which this data is available) is presented in the figure below. Freshwater consumption for thermoelectric uses appears low when compared to other use categories. However, even at 3% consumption, over 3 BGD were consumed. It is expected that the quantity of freshwater consumed by thermoelectric generation is higher today than in 1995, with DOE/NETL estimates of 6.2 BGD consumed by thermoelectric plants in 2005.

## U.S. Freshwater Consumption (1995)



Source: United States Geological Survey.  
Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 1995.

Waste of drinking water resources can be blamed on irrigation. Plans should be put in place and municipalities should be seeking grants or other means of financial aide to use reclaimed water for irrigation. There are a lot of natural resources we can utilize to help our energy needs like the wind, solar power, and burning garbage to create energy. There is natural gases produced by manure that can be burnt to make energy. My grandfather's recipe for white lighting will make a car run, and I know this to be a fact because I have used it I my own truck.

In closing let me state that looking for alternative means to help preserve our natural resources is great. But let's also turn our attention to the items of waste we take for granted everyday like garbage, old tires, cow manure, reclaimed water, sludge from a waste water treatment plant, and old junked cars and let's focus on ways to utilize these items and put them to use as a daily part our life's.