



Wisconsin Energy Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

How Big is a Gigatonne (Gt)?

Wisconsin Energy Institute
Education and Outreach

How many adult people would it take to weigh a gigatonne?



The average human weighs 180 pounds

1 gigatonne =
12,200,000,000 or
12.2 billion humans –
that's almost 2 times the current
world population!

How many adult bulls would it take to weigh a gigatonne?



The average bull weighs 1 tonne

1 gigatonne =
1,000,000,000
bull cattle

How many vehicles weigh a gigatonne?



The average car weighs 2 tonnes

1 gigatonne =
500,000,000
vehicles

The Statute of Liberty?



The Statue of Liberty weighs 230 tonnes

1 gigatonne =
4,400,000
Statues

Lake Mendota?



Lake Mendota contains 5 million
cubic meters of water.

1 gigatonne = 2
Lake Mendota's

**How many hours of water passing over
Niagara Falls would it take to weigh a
gigatonne?**



Every hour, 2.7 billion gallons of
water flow over Niagara Falls.

1 gigatonne = the
weight of 98 hours of
water passing over
Niagara Falls