

Climate Smart Communities **Crosswalk** **Community Rating System (CRS)**



Climate Smart
Communities

What is the Climate Smart Communities Crosswalk?

The Climate Smart Communities Crosswalk is designed to show where there are potential overlaps between the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification program and 6 water-focused programs in New York State. The goal is to help communities save time, energy, and money by exploring opportunities for achieving points for CSC certification actions. The CSC Crosswalk tool consists of 8 PDF documents and 6 online surveys.

What is the CSC Certification Program?

The NYS Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification program helps local governments reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. The program offers grants, electric vehicle rebates, and free technical assistance.

What is the CRS Program?

The Community Rating System (CRS) program is a federal program related to flooding. It recognizes municipalities for floodplain management practices that exceed the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In CRS communities, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community's efforts.

Technical Notes

There are some places where implementing the given CSC certification action could help achieve CRS credits, but not vice versa. For example, implementing the CSC certification action "Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements" could help achieve CRS credits under CRS Activities 320 (map information), 330 (outreach), 360 (property protection), 410 (mapping), 420 (open space), 430 (higher standards), and 510 (natural functions), depending on the contents of the comprehensive plan. However, implementing these CRS activities individually would not be enough to gain CSC credits for a comprehensive plan. Scenarios such as this were excluded from the crosswalk tool.

The points areas in the crosswalk are not guaranteed, nor endorsed by state agencies. Extra effort may be required to achieve points under the CSC Certification program. The ultimate decisions about points lie with the CSC reviewer.

Important Links

New York Sea Grant

<https://seagrantsunysb.edu/>

Climate Smart Communities

<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/>

CRS Program

[https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/
community-rating-system](https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/community-rating-system)

For more information,
please contact Mary
Austerman, New York Sea
Grant, at
mp357@cornell.edu.



**Walk through the Climate Smart
Communities Crosswalk online!**
www.nyseagrant.org/csccrosswalk

Climate Smart Communities **Crosswalk**

Community Rating System (CRS)



Climate Smart
Communities

CRS Program Components

#	CSC Pledge Element	CSC Certification Action	Public Information	Mapping & Regulations	Flood Damage Reduction	Warning & Response	# of Relevant CSC Actions per Pledge Element
1	Build a climate-smart community	<i>Partnerships with Other Entities</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
2	Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action	N/A					0
3	Decrease energy use	N/A					0
4	Shift to clean, renewable energy	N/A					0
5	Use climate-smart materials management	N/A					0
6	Implement climate-smart land use	<i>Smart Growth Policies</i>		✓			7
		<i>Green Parking Lot Policies</i>		✓			
		<i>Complete Streets Policy</i>		✓			
		<i>Traffic Calming</i>		✓			
		<i>Natural Resources Inventory</i>		✓	✓		
		<i>Local Forestry Program</i>		✓			
		<i>Zoning for Protection of Natural Areas</i>		✓	✓		



✓ The CSC certification action could be achieved by completing the plan/program, with little to no extra effort.

✓ The CSC certification action could be achieved by completing the plan/program, under certain conditions and/or with some extra effort.

N/A

No CSC certification actions within the Pledge Element are relevant, OR the CSC certification actions within the Pledge Element could not be achieved without significant additional effort and/or external funding beyond the plan/program.

Climate Smart Communities **Crosswalk** **Community Rating System (CRS)**



Climate Smart
Communities

CRS Program Components

#	CSC Pledge Element	CSC Certification Action	Public Information	Mapping & Regulations	Flood Damage Reduction	Warning & Response	# of Relevant CSC Actions per Pledge Element
7	Enhance community resilience to climate change	<i>Climate Vulnerability Assessment</i>		✓	✓		15
		<i>Climate Adaptation Plan</i>			✓		
		<i>Climate-resilient Hazard Mitigation Plan</i>			✓		
		<i>Conserve Natural Areas</i>		✓	✓		
		<i>Watershed-based Flood Mitigation Plan</i>		✓			
		<i>Design Flood Elevation & Flood Maps</i>	✓	✓			
		<i>Freeboard Policies</i>		✓			
		<i>Green Infrastructure</i>		✓	✓		
		<i>Culverts & Dams</i>	✓		✓	✓	
		<i>Riparian Buffers</i>		✓	✓		
		<i>Strategic Relocation</i>		✓	✓		
		<i>Nature-based Shorelines</i>		✓			
		<i>National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
		<i>Watershed Plan for Water Quality</i>		✓			
		<i>Source Water Protection</i>			✓		



✓ The CSC certification action could be achieved by completing the plan/program, with little to no extra effort.

✓ The CSC certification action could be achieved by completing the plan/program, under certain conditions and/or with some extra effort.

N/A

No CSC certification actions within the Pledge Element are relevant, OR the CSC certification actions within the Pledge Element could not be achieved without significant additional effort and/or external funding beyond the plan/program.

Climate Smart Communities **Crosswalk**

Community Rating System (CRS)



Climate Smart
Communities

CRS Program Components

#	CSC Pledge Element	CSC Certification Action	Public Information	Mapping & Regulations	Flood Damage Reduction	Warning & Response	# of Relevant CSC Actions per Pledge Element
8	Support a green innovation economy	N/A					0
9	Inform and inspire the public	<i>Climate Change Education & Engagement</i> <i>Climate-related Public Events</i> <i>Social Media</i>	 				3
10	Engage in an evolving process of climate action	N/A					0
11	Innovation	N/A					0
12	Performance	N/A					0
# of Relevant CSC Actions per CRS Program Component:			7	19	13	3	



The CSC certification action could be achieved by completing the plan/program, with little to no extra effort.

The CSC certification action could be achieved by completing the plan/program, under certain conditions and/or with some extra effort.

N/A No CSC certification actions within the Pledge Element are relevant, OR the CSC certification actions within the Pledge Element could not be achieved without significant additional effort and/or external funding beyond the plan/program.