

# Climate Smart Communities **Crosswalk**

## **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)**



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 MS4 Program?**

The MS4 program is a regulatory program related to stormwater. EPA's Phase II Stormwater Rule regulates small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) located within the boundaries of an "urbanized area," as defined by the Census Bureau. Regulated municipalities are required to develop and implement a comprehensive Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) to control the quality of storm water discharged.

### **Technical Notes**

The MS4 program requires communities to complete Comprehensive System Mapping, and to implement a program that addresses six Minimum Control Measures (MCM) for stormwater management. MS4 operators may also choose to utilize Alternative Implementation Options. The crosswalk focuses on these three components from the perspective of an MS4 operator. It does not account for stormwater pollution prevention plans (SWPPP) required for individual construction projects, nor Construction General Permits that proceed MS4 permitting. Although not evaluated here, CSC certified communities can also gain additional points on grant programs like the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program.

**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>

**MS4 Program**

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quality/stormwater/ms4-toolbox>

**Regulated MS4 Areas**

<https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/stormwater/>

**For more information,  
please contact  
Mary Austerman,  
New York Sea Grant,  
at [mp357@cornell.edu](mailto:mp357@cornell.edu).**



**Walk through the Climate Smart  
Communities Crosswalk online!**  
[www.nyseagrant.org/csccrosswalk](http://www.nyseagrant.org/csccrosswalk)

# Climate Smart Communities **Crosswalk**

## Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)



### MS4 Program Components

#	CSC Pledge Element	CSC Certification Action	Comprehensive System Mapping	Public Education & Outreach	Public Participation/ Involvement	Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination	Construction Site Runoff Control	Post-Construction Site Runoff Control	Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping	Alternative Implementation Options	# 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	<i>Advanced Vehicles</i>							✓		1
4	Shift to clean, renewable energy	N/A									0
5	Use climate-smart materials management	<i>Construction &amp; Demolition Waste Policy</i>					✓				1
		<i>Green Parking Lot Policies</i>						✓			
6	Implement climate-smart land use	<i>Natural Resources Inventory</i>	✓								3
		<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.

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7	Enhance community resilience to climate change	<i>Green Infrastructure</i> <i>Water Conservation &amp; Reuse</i>	✓	✓				✓			2
8	Support a green innovation economy	N/A									0
9	Inform and inspire the public	<i>Climate-related Public Events</i> <i>Social Media</i>		✓	✓						2
10	Engage in an evolving process of climate action	N/A									0
<b># of Relevant CSC Actions per MS4 Program Component:</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	



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