



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



Community Rating System (CRS)

Overview & Benefits



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Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Every CT municipality participates in the NFIP.

Most towns joined regular phase of NFIP in 1980s.

Each municipality adopted FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and local floodplain zoning regulations/ordinance, and permits development in the floodplain through local zoning/building/land use departments.



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What is the Community Rating System?

- CRS is a voluntary program within the NFIP.
- Managed by FEMA and ISO.
- Similar to town fire rating, points system.
- Activity = points.
- CRS rewards communities that are doing more than the minimum in floodplain management with discounts to property owners with flood insurance policies.



Discounts Based on Activity Points

<u>Points</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Discount</u>
0-499	10	0%
500-999	9	5%
1,000-1,499	8	10%
1,500-1,999	7	15%
2,000-2,499	6	20%
2,500-2,999	5	25%
3,000-3,499	4	30%
3,500-3,999	3	35%
4,000-4,499	2	40%
4,500+	1	45%

Connecticut CRS communities are in Class 7, 8 or 9.

In Connecticut, savings range from approximately \$50-\$150 per policy on average.



CRS Creditable Activities

There are 19 creditable activities within 4 series

– 300 Series - Public Information (7 activities)

- *Elevation Certificates, Map Information Service, Outreach Projects, Hazard Disclosure, Flood Protection Information, Flood Protection Assistance, Flood Insurance Promotion*

– 400 Series – Mapping & Regulations (5 activities)

- *Higher Regulatory Standards, Stormwater Management, Open Space Preservation, Flood Data Maintenance, Floodplain Mapping*

– 500 Series – Flood Damage Reduction (4 activities)

- *Floodplain Management Planning, Flood Protection, Acquisition and Relocation, Drainage System Maintenance*

– 600 Series – Warning & Response (3 activities)

- *Flood Warning and Response, Dams, Levees*



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CRS Coordinator's Manual

- CRS “Bible”
- 2017 most recent version
- www.crsresources.org/manual



OMR No. 1850-0822
Expires: March 31, 2026

National Flood Insurance Program
Community Rating System

Coordinator's Manual

PLA-15/2017



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Some “Easy” Credit Points

- Elevation Certificates (Activity 310) – 10-40 points, **mandatory**
- Higher Regulatory Standards (Activities 430) – 50-250 points
- Real Estate Disclosure (Activity 340) – 10 points
- State Dam Safety Program if community is impacted by a high hazard dam failure (Activity 630) – 42 points
- FEMA Publications library/website (Activity 350) – 20-50 pts
- Adopt FEMA-Approved Regional/Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (Activity 510) – 100-200 points
- Open Space Preservation – FEMA is providing more points for dedicated open space (Activity 420) – 100-600+ points



Current 13 Connecticut CRS Communities

- *East Lyme - Class 8 (10% discount)
- *Fairfield – Class 8 (10% discount)
- *Guilford – Class 9 (5% discount)
- *Milford – Class 9 (5% discount)
- *New Haven – Class 7 (15% discount)
- Newtown – Class 9 (5% discount)
- Norwich – Class 8 (10% discount) **May 2020**
- *Stamford – Class 7 (15% discount)
- *Stonington, Borough – Class 8 (10% discount)
- *Stonington, Town – Class 8 (10% discount)
- *Stratford – Class 8 (10% discount)
- Trumbull – Class 8 (10% discount)
- West Hartford – Class 8 (10% discount)
- *Westport – Class 8 (10% discount)

In Connecticut CRS Communities:

- *Just under 14,500 policies receive discount*
- *Just under \$2,000,000 in savings*

CRS discounts are paid for by other policyholders nationwide.

**CT sees more coastal towns participating as they have a higher policy count = more savings*



Other Interested Communities

Bridgeport

Colchester

Darien (in process)

Groton, Town

Norwalk

Waterford

These towns have submitted a formal letter of interest to FEMA Region I office and are awaiting a Community Assistance Visit (audit).



Recent Interest in CRS

- Rising flood insurance rates.
- Saving constituents money \$\$\$.
- Shows property owners municipality is “doing something”.
- Good floodplain management.
- Tied to other resilience initiatives.
- Natural progression of the program, NFIP is over 50 years old, CT has full community participation in program, communities taking the next step.



What do you need to join CRS?

- Community must initiate a CRS application with FEMA by submitting a letter of interest from the CEO & CRS Quick Check.
- Community must designate a local CRS Coordinator.
- Community must maintain flood insurance on community-owned property located in the 100-year floodplain.
- Pass a FEMA Community Assistance Visit (CAV) - **Audit**. If violations are identified they must be mitigated to the greatest extent possible.
- ISO also conducts a separate audit (verification visit).



What do you need to join CRS?

- Community must require Elevation Certificates (EC) for new construction in the 100-year floodplain (Activity 310).
- If not doing this already, community must start this activity when they join CRS and maintain ECs on file.
- ECs must be reviewed for accuracy as they come into town hall. A percentage of ECs are reviewed by ISO at each 5 year cycle visit and a 90% accuracy threshold must be maintained.
- Coastal towns - V Zone Design certificate must also be required.
- For dry floodproofed non-residential buildings, FEMA's Floodproofing Certificate must also be required.



What do you need to join CRS?

- If a community has at least one but fewer than 50 repetitive loss properties (RLPs) (Category B community), at each verification visit you are required to review and update RLP list, prepare a RLP map, review and describe RLP problem within community, prepare list of addresses of all properties with insurable buildings in those areas, and conduct an annual outreach project to those addresses.
- If a community has 50 or more RLPs (Category C community), it must complete the activities listed above and also prepare and adopt a repetitive loss area analysis.



What are the barriers to joining CRS?

- Designating a CRS Coordinator, another hat to wear.
- Limited staff time to prepare initial application.
- Limited staff time to prepare annual self recertification.
- Limited staff time to document required and on-going activities, and to initiate new activities.
- Community may not pass FEMA CAV (audit) and any violations need to be mitigated once identified.
- Need a “jump start” or “champion” to initiate project.

“It’s a lot of work for 20 people.”

“Our residents don’t care if they save \$50.”

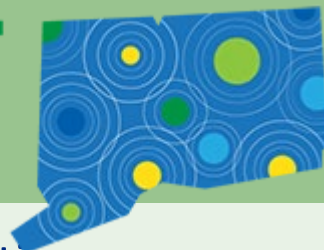


What are the benefits to joining CRS?

- Savings on flood insurance policies, appeals to CEOs.
- May drive more residents to purchase flood insurance
(Nationwide only 30% of homes in floodplain have flood insurance – Wharton School)
- Cost avoidance (emergency response, repairing damage)
- Makes open space a money maker for the naysayers.
- Synergy with Sustainable CT actions.
- CRS brings attention and focus to floodplain management and resilience for residents and town officials.



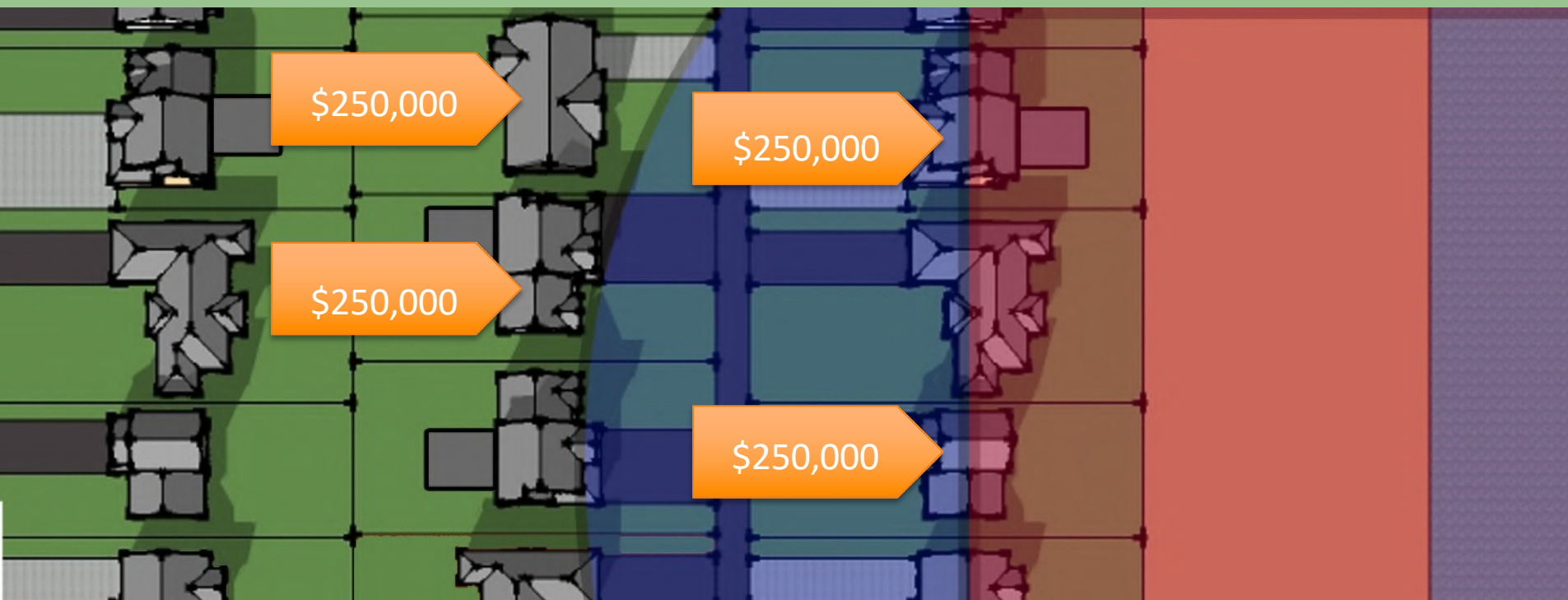
Sustainable CT
Local Actions. Statewide Impact.



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Flood Insurance & Community Resiliency

- Why worry about 1 or 2 policies being sold?
- Single family building can be fully insured at \$250,000
- Every 4 policies sold = \$1,000,000 in more coverage for the community
- Insurance leads to greater community resiliency



Recovery and Resiliency

***Disaster Assistance? (Individual Assistance)**

Average payout in Harvey: \$6,000

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)?

Grants limited after a storm

Small Business Admin.?

Loan up to \$200,000 for primary home owners

Traditional Lending?

Traditional loan to value Requirements apply. Many may not have equity or good credit rating to obtain loan

Flood Insurance

Policies in force, guarantee access to available funds to repair structures

** Over half of federally declared disasters do not include FEMA Individual Assistance (IA)*

Questions?

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