



STATE OF VERMONT

Date of Verification: Spring 2024

The Community Rating System (CRS) provides credit to communities for certain state laws, regulations, and standards that support floodplain management within a state and have proven effective in reducing flood damage. This Verification Report is provided to explain the recommendations of Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) to DHS/FEMA concerning state-based credits under the CRS within the above state.

There are two sections to this report: State-based credit, and Other potential credit.

State-based credit is awarded to communities for activities that are implemented and enforced by the state. The credit is provided to each community in the state and documentation is not needed from the community.

Other potential credit lists the CRS activities for which communities may receive CRS credit based on, or due to, state or regional programs or regulations that are implemented within the community. There is also information regarding use of a state-based model ordinance, if present in the state. The potential credits must be verified by the ISO/CRS Specialists within each community, since enforcement is done at the community (or regional) level.

The following is a summary of state-based credit and other potential credit based on the *2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual* and *2021 Addendum*:

State Based Credit

ACTIVITY	ELEMENT	POINTS

No state-based credit has been verified at this time.

Other Potential Credit

ISO/CRS Specialists and the community need to determine which credits may apply to an individual community. The following is a summary of activities that are potential credits:

ACTIVITY	ELEMENT
430 (Higher Regulatory Standards)	Other BC1–building codes
450 (Stormwater Management)	ESC–erosion & sedimentation control WQ–water quality
630 (Dams)	SDS–state dam safety

Activity 430 & Potential Higher Regulatory Standards in the State’s Model Ordinance

State Model Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resource’s Department of Environmental Conversation (DEC) is the State NFIP Coordinating Agency. DEC’s website includes FEMA-approved model ordinance language, which includes several higher standards.

Link: http://floodready.vermont.gov/find_funding/flood_insurance

Activity 430 (Higher Regulatory Standards) Element BC1, Building Codes

The Vermont Building Code is the state’s building code which is based on the 2015 International Building Code (IBC) but does not adopt the International Residential Code (IRC). Vermont has also adopted the 2021 International Plumbing Code. It does not appear that communities are mandated to adopt the state building code.

<https://firesafety.vermont.gov/buildingcode/codes>

<https://bgs.vermont.gov/>

Activity 450 (Stormwater Management)

ESC–EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL WQ–WATER QUALITY

The State of Vermont has assumed the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program from the federal government. The state issues its permits through the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. Regulations require all construction

activities greater than 1 acre to obtain a MS4 permit. This requirement provides Vermont's CRS-participating communities with an additional 10 points.

Source: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wastewater>

Activity 630 (Dams) Element SDS, State Dam Safety

There are 62 High Hazard Potential Dams (HDD) in Vermont. Some of the state's HDDs have Condition Assessments (CA) and Emergency Action Plans (EAP). Credit available for activities of the state's dam safety program is based on the Dam Safety Program Management Tool. Credit for element SDS is limited to communities that would be affected by a flood from the failure of a high-hazard-potential dam. This must be documented with a description and a map.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Inventory of Dams webpage at <https://nid.sec.usace.army.mil/#/> documents the dams and flood inundation maps information. [FEMA's Dam Safety](#) Office annually verifies element SDS credit.

- Vermont Dam Safety Office: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/dam-safety>
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