

Advanced Floodplain Management in Barnstable County

A Regional Approach to the Community Rating System

Climate change has brought increased coastal flooding, sea level rise, higher tides and more extreme storms to coastal communities. Recovering from and mitigating these events presents coastal communities with some costly challenges. Enhancing the management of floodplains is vital to reducing the impact of floods on lives, property and the economy.



What is the Community Rating System?

CRS is a voluntary incentive program of the National Flood Insurance Program that rewards communities that take actions beyond the federal minimum requirements to reduce the risk of flooding. They improve coastal resiliency for everyone in the community and earn NFIP policyholders a discount on flood insurance.

Community Rating System
in Barnstable County
BY THE NUMBERS

\$420,000

Saved annually by policy holders

Projected annual savings by 2020 **\$900,000**

3,000 policy holders receiving discounts

Policyholders receiving discounts

DOUBLED in 3 years.



Benefits to property owners:

- Save money on flood insurance
- Reduced impacts of flooding
- Improve coastal resiliency
- Improved awareness of flood risk



Benefits to municipalities:

- Access to floodplain expertise
- Conserve resources
- Improve coastal resiliency
- Safer community



www.capecodextension.org

www.whoi.edu/seagrants

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Barnstable County's Regionally Managed CRS Program

Barnstable County, Massachusetts, is the first in the nation to have a regionally-managed CRS program. The CRS coordinator is funded by the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension and Woods Hole Sea Grant.

The coordinator provides the technical expertise and assistance to guide communities through the application process and help them maintain and enhance their participation in the program.

The award-winning program is a model for other communities across the nation and the basis for proposed legislation to fund regional coordinators nationwide.

