



Pros and Cons of NYS Communities Participation in CRS

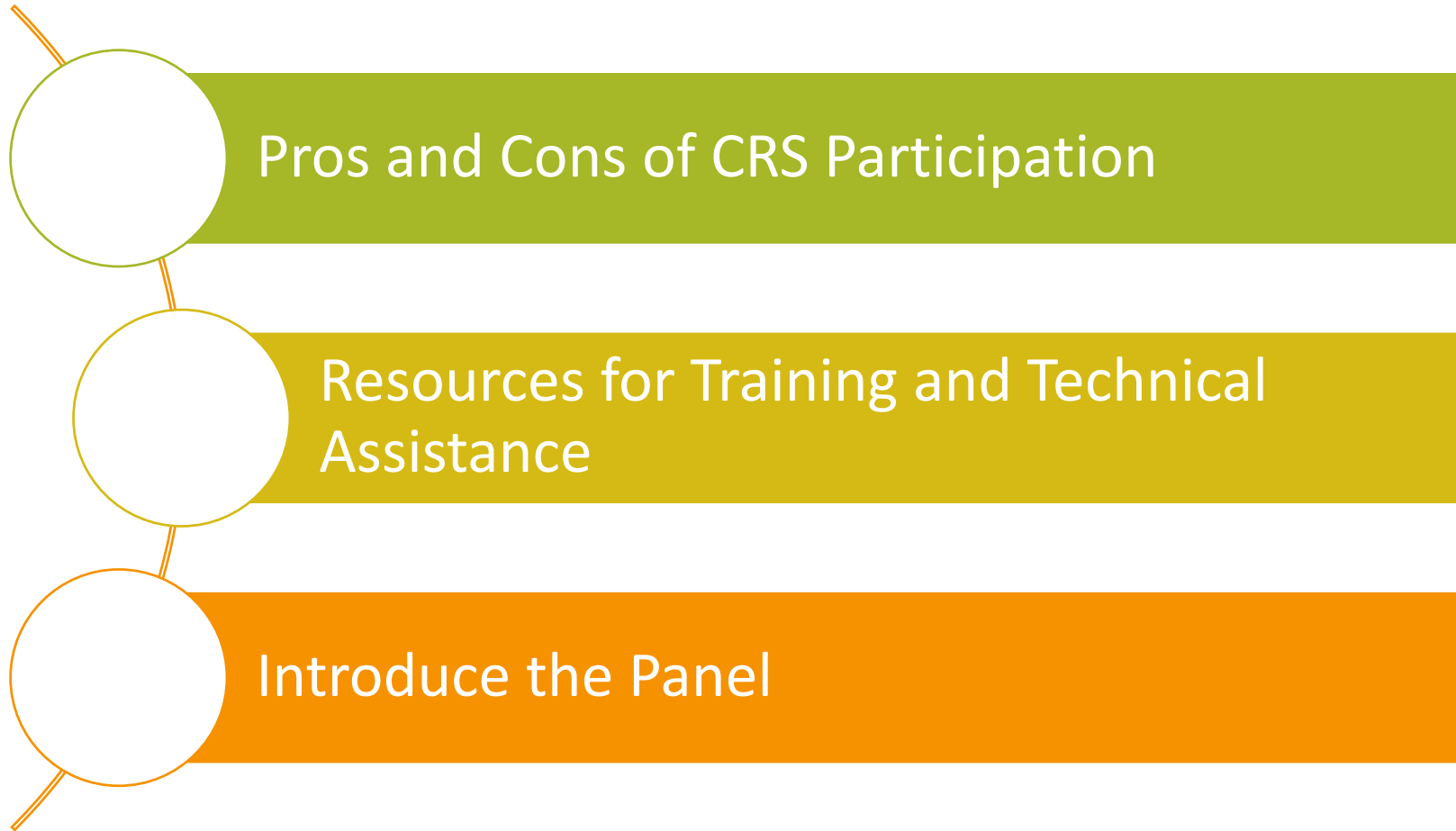
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CRS Training 2020



Overview of CRS Participation Pros and Cons

- Participation is low
 - 1,506 NFIP Communities in NYS
 - 35 in CRS program (at Class 9 or higher)
- Complicated but worth it
 - Challenges in the application and maintenance of status in the CRS
 - Most participating municipalities would recommend the CRS to other communities



Synthesized from

- New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (NYSFSMA)
 - CRS Users' Group Recommendations to CRS Task Force from the (2016)
- Hudson Estuary Watershed Resiliency Project/Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Dutchess County
 - FEMA Community Rating System: A Cost-Benefit Analysis for New York State Communities (2015)
- Janet Thigpen, CFM
 - Flood Mitigation Specialist, Southern Tier Central Regional Planning & Development Board



Pros

Overall Objectives

- to reduce flood damage, increase flood insurance coverage, and foster comprehensive floodplain management to address and mitigate flooding vulnerabilities

Cost Savings

- Direct-receive discounted flood insurance premium rates
- Indirect-from a reduction in long term damages caused by flooding
- Demonstrating to citizens that the government is doing something

Improved Flood Risk Management

- Provides excellent guidance for local efforts.
- Proactive instead of reactive
- Looks beyond the active flood zone
- Momentum to stay in the program
- More likely to consider implementing additional activities
- Promotes continued documentation and record-keeping
- Encourages awareness of current floodplain management activities

Cons



Complicated and Confusing

- Paperwork and documentation
- Scoring of points by activity are inconsistent/not transparent
- CRS Manual confusing

NYS Communities

- Many are small, with very limited capacity
- Few buildings located in the mapped Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)
- NYS Home Rule
- Many only have approximate floodplain studies

General

- Emphasis on protecting open spaces not tailored to rural communities
- Not enough credits for activities outside the SFHA

Resources

Technical Assistance

- FEMA
 - Regional Office, Region 2
 - Emergency Management Institute (EMI)
- NYS DEC's Floodplain Management Section
 - Regional Floodplain Management Coordinators
- NYS CRS Users' Group (NYSFSMA)
- Regional Planning Agencies
- County Cornell Cooperative Extensions



Resources

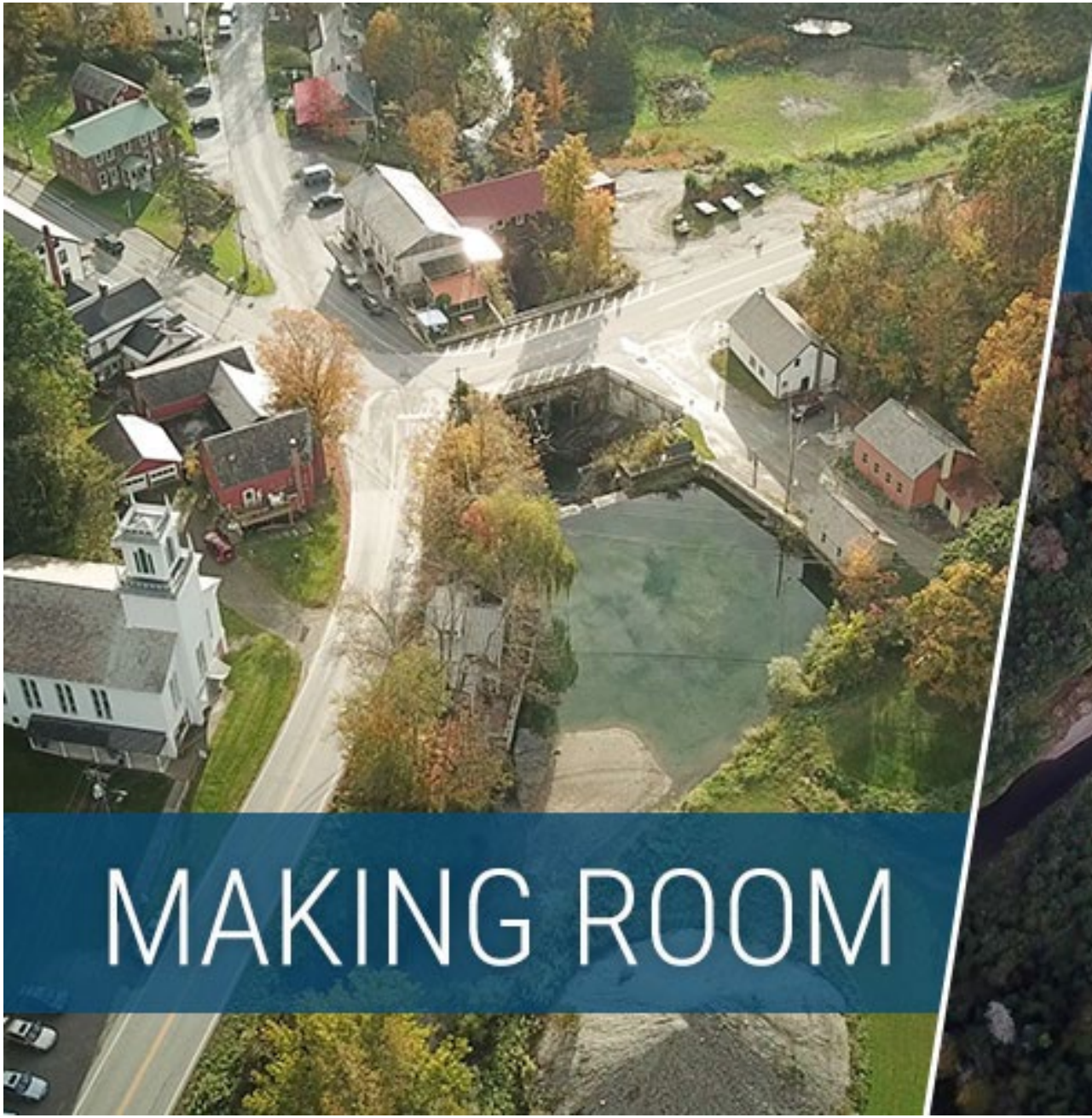
FEMA

- Overview fact sheet
- Small Communities in the CRS
- CRS Application Letter and Quick Check Tool
- CRS Community Self-Assessment
- Coordinator's Manual
- Guides to Expanding Mitigation
- CRSResources.org

Various

- Association of State Floodplain Managers
CRS Resources
- NYSFSMA CRS Training Page
- NYS WRI Flood Resilience Cross Walk





FOR RIVERS



MAKING ROOM



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THANK YOU