

# **Challenges and opportunities with municipal high performance building design and construction**

**Presenter: Rick Alfandre**

## **Presenter Biographies and Experience:**

Rick Alfandre is an architect who, over the past 33 years, has designed and built hundreds of projects ranging from hotels to residences. Recently completed projects include office buildings, government and not for profit buildings, a museum, restaurants, and religious facilities. Rick is an expert in the design of healthy and productive places to live and work. Alfandre's offices are in their LEED Platinum, Net-Zero-Energy, office building in the heart of the beautiful Hudson Valley. Rick Alfandre, AIA, LEED AP BD+C is the president of Alfandre Architecture, which he founded in 1991, and EcoBuilders Inc which he founded in 2009. Alfandre has presented several times at the NYS GBC, twice at the AIA NYS conference, and the Hudson Valley Green Building Expo. Alfandre has a Master of Architecture from Virginia Tech, and a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication from SUNY New Paltz and was inducted into the SUNY New Paltz School of Business Hall of Fame in 2013.

## **Abstract:**

Local & county government projects provide a unique opportunity to construct high performance & healthy buildings that will serve their communities for generations. The realization of these buildings requires that local leaders, and community members, understand the benefits that high performance buildings provide and are committed to their construction. We will look at two projects to illustrate the benefits, as well as the challenges, in designing and building these facilities. The New Paltz Fire Station, completed in October of 2022, is all-electric and will be net-zero-energy, once the planned solar array is complete in 2025. The Ulster County Government Operations and 911 Call Center will begin construction in the spring of 2025. This highly resilient, secure, and all electric facility reflects the myriads of issues, and interrelationships of those issues, that must be navigated. In addition to energy efficiency, particular attention was paid to creating healthy indoor environments for both buildings. We will discuss the genesis of these projects and the many "twists and turns" they have taken, while creating an inspiring conversation, rather than a "how to" technical lecture, though details will be illustrated.