



ROCKLAND MUNICIPAL PLANNING FEDERATION

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### Planning Federation Dinner Meeting to Discuss How Buildings Can Be Made "Green"

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POMONA – The Rockland Municipal Planning Federation will host its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner Meeting on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at 7 pm at the Clubhouse at Patriot Hills, located on Clubhouse Lane in Stony Point. The keynote address will be given by Michael Shilale of Michael Shilale Architects, LLP. He will describe why existing buildings are prime opportunities for reducing carbon emissions and energy use and will present information about the LEED-EB rating system and strategies for implementing improvements in building systems, water and energy use.

Buildings produce almost half of the carbon dioxide emitted in the US each year and consume 75% of the electricity generated. Mr. Shilale will discuss how those statistics can be drastically improved by upgrading buildings to the level of LEED-EB certification. LEED certified buildings use 24%-50% less energy, produce 33%-39% less carbon dioxide, consume 40% less water and recycle or reuse 50%-70% of their solid waste.

Since graduating from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1985, Michael Shilale, AIA, LEED, has been changing the face of Rockland County. Starting his firm in 1991, the 47-year-old architect is responsible for many innovative buildings in the County including the award winning Kathleen Lukens Living Center for Camp Venture in Sparkill, and the Tendler Center in New Hempstead.

Mr. Shilale serves as Vice President for the NYS American Institute of Architects and has recently been named to the board of directors of the Rockland Business Association. He is a board member and past chair of Rockland County's Art in Public Places committee. He is a past president and still serves as a board member for the Rockland Housing Action Coalition. Michael Shilale Architects, LLP (MSA), an eight person architectural engineering firm, is committed to protecting and preserving the environment through their design work.

The Planning Federation is comprised of Town and Village Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals Members, plus members of the Rockland County Planning Board and the Rockland County Department of Planning. The staff, attorneys, consultants and building inspectors for the boards are also members. Any individual interested in the purposes of the Federation may become an Associate Member.

The Federation serves a number of purposes, including creating and maintaining a forum to discuss common land use planning and regulation, zoning and related issues. The Federation also offers education and training in planning and zoning methods and land use issues, as well as certification for municipal planning and zoning board members.

Attendees can earn one hour towards the State mandated 4-hour annual training for municipal land-use board members. Cost for the event is \$35 per person and includes a buffet meal (kosher plates by advance request), and cash bar. Advanced registration is requested. To make a reservation, please call Arlene Miller at 845-364-3448, or send an e-mail to [millera@co.rockland.ny.us](mailto:millera@co.rockland.ny.us). Checks should be made payable to the Rockland Municipal Planning Federation and should be sent in care of the Rockland County Planning Department, Building T, Pomona, NY 10970.

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