

Melanie Nakagawa serves as the Senior Director for Climate and Energy and a member of the current US administration's National Security Council. She will work on the U.S. return to the Paris Agreement and President Joe Biden's objective of integrating climate change into all aspects of U.S. foreign policy.

In the Obama-Biden Administration, Nakagawa was appointed deputy assistant secretary for energy transformation at the U.S. State Department and served as a strategic advisor on climate change to Secretary of State John Kerry on the policy planning staff. Biden has named Kerry as special envoy for climate and given him a seat on the NSC.

Most recently, Nakagawa was director of climate strategy at Princeville Capital, leading their climate and sustainability investment strategy to back technology-enabled companies delivering transformative solutions to climate change. Earlier in her career, she was the senior energy and environment counsel for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council. She provides her expertise on the board of the Advanced Energy Economy Institute, REVERB Advisory Board, and as a Loomis Innovation Council member.

Born in New Jersey, she earned a J.D. and M.A. in international affairs from American University's Washington College of Law and School of International Service, and an A.B. from Brown University.