

Melissa Audrey, ENV SP

Senior ESG Analyst



Melissa Audrey is a Senior ESG Analyst at Kestrel Verifiers, responsible for conducting external reviews under the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) and Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) standards. She also evaluates competitive market deals for our pre-qualification service through Ipreo by IHS Markit, and manages Kestrel's internship program.

Ms. Audrey is a political scientist with a master's degree from Columbia University and experience in political consulting and public relations. She has committed her academic and professional career to understanding political systems, civil rights, socioeconomics, and environmental justice in the US.

In her role as a Social Bond Specialist at Kestrel, Ms. Audrey applies this expertise by understanding social impact strategies across sectors and their intersection with environmental sustainability. She has also led efforts to help bridge the knowledge gap between equity in theory and equity in practice.

Fields of Competence

- Political Science, Theory, and Philosophy
- Comparative, Statistical, and Historical Analysis
- Race, Gender, and Religion in the United States
- Political Economies
- Environmental Justice and Social Equity
- Municipal Sustainable Finance
- Green, Social & Sustainability Bonds
- Critical Thought on: Labor Rights and Theory, Political Assembly and Public Spaces, Women's Health and Reproductive Rights, Gender-Based Violence, Prison Systems and Mass Incarceration

Key Industry Sectors

- Academic Research
- Public Relations and Community Affairs
- Municipal and State Government
- Political Consulting
- Health and Wellbeing, Healthcare
- Affordable Housing
- K-12 Education

Education

- Master of Arts. Political Science, Columbia University, New York, NY, 2020
- Bachelor of Arts. Foreign Affairs and English Literature, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, 2019

Professional Affiliations & Registrations

- Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP)
- International Association for Political Science Students
- Women's Leadership and Development Program at the University of Virginia

Languages & International Experience

- French; American Sign Language; Italian, basic competence
- Studied in Copenhagen, Denmark 2017



Key Projects

Municipal Sustainable Finance

Municipal Bond Review for Upcoming Issues, Kestrel Verifiers, 2021-Present Verifier Analyst

Currently serving as an ESG Analyst, Social Bond Specialist and Social Equity expert on the Verifier Team. Helping establish Kestrel as a leader in US public finance by preparing Verifier's Reports on Climate Bonds and Second Party Opinions on Green, Social and Sustainability Bonds. Performing outreach and education to underwriters, financial advisors and issuers. Leading research in racial and socioeconomic equity, US muni market mapping of UN Sustainable Development Goals, and building the bridge between academic literature on equity and equity in practice. Recruited, hired and trained interns and analysts. Assisted in the verification of over \$4 billion in transactions 2021 and helped expand market share.

Public K-12 Education and Charter Schools, Second Party Opinions, Kestrel Verifiers, 2021 Lead Analyst

Served as partial Lead Analyst and client relations manager for engagements with Newark Public Schools, KIPP New York City Charter Schools, and Friends of TEAM Charter Schools. Prepared Second Party Opinions for one Sustainability Bond and two Social Bonds which all addressed racial equity.

Solar Energy, Verifier's Reports, Kestrel Verifiers, 2021 Lead Analyst

Served as Lead Analyst and client relations manager for engagements with California Community Choice Financing Authority. Evaluated bond-financed projects against CBI's solar criteria and prepared a Verifier's Report.

Higher Education, Second Party Opinions and Verifier's Reports, Kestrel Verifiers, 2021 ESG Analyst

Evaluated bond-financed activities for Stanford University (Sustainability Bond - Climate Bond Certified) and provided a Second Party Opinion and Verifier's Report highlighting health equity, energy efficient campus design, and affordable student housing. Evaluated bond-financed activities for Oberlin College (Green Bond - Climate Bond Certified) and provided a Verifier's Report. Evaluated bond-financed activities for University of Minnesota (Sustainability Bond) and provided a Second Party Opinion featuring analysis of healthy equity for Native American Indians, Indigenous Communities, and Tribal Nations.

Museums and Other Public Facilities, Second Party Opinions, Kestrel Verifiers, 2021 ESG Analyst

Evaluated bond-financed activities and prepared Second Party Opinions for the American Museum of Natural History and Longwood Gardens. Established new project categories under the Social Bond Principles, including "Biocultural Diversity and Research" and "Preservation of Natural and/or Cultural History."

Affordable Housing, Second Party Opinions, Kestrel Verifiers, 2021 ESG Analyst

Evaluated bond-financed activities and prepared Second Party Opinions for Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Tennessee Housing Development Agency, Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, Housing Authority of the City and County of Denver, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, California Municipal Finance Authority, and the City of Anaheim.

Public Transportation, Verifier's Reports, Kestrel Verifiers, 2021 ESG Analyst

Evaluated bond-financed activities and prepared Verifier's Reports for Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and Denver Regional Transportation District.

Water, Wastewater, and Waste Management Bonds, Second Party Opinions, Kestrel Verifiers, 2021 ESG Analyst

Evaluated bond-financed activities and prepared Second Party Opinions for Gainesville Regional Utilities, Seattle Public Utilities, and Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District.

Other Renewable Energy, Second Party Opinions, Kestrel Verifiers, 2021 ESG Analyst

Evaluated bond-financed activities and prepared a Second Party Opinion for Tacoma Power, a fully hydro-electric energy utility.

Key Projects

Corporate Sustainable Finance

Second Party Opinions and Verifier's Reports for Corporate Transactions, Kestrel Verifiers, 2021 ESG Analyst

Provided various Second Party Opinions and Verifier's Reports for corporate transactions, completed and in progress. Projects financed by these transactions relate to natural resource and land use management. Reviewed many corporate deals for label eligibility.

Kestrel Organizational Development

Continuing Education

Actively seeking out attainment of relevant certifications and participation in professional programs including the Envision Sustainability Professional credential.

Internal Procedures

Continuously collaborating on internal procedures and external documents for business development and scale-up growth.

Public Relations & Community Affairs

Harte Hanks (Data-Driven Marketing Agency), 2020

Associate Strategist

Led a research initiative on consumer behavior in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, recent protests, and political contexts that helped acquire new business. Culminated in various blog posts with high click-through rates, internal reviews, and a whitepaper.

Read Ahead, 2019 –2020

Tutor

Volunteered as a mentor with Read Ahead: a non-profit, reading-based mentorship program that leverages corporate resources for community impact in NYC elementary schools. Supported a child from a chronically under-resourced public school in Harlem through weekly one-on-one reading sessions.

United Nations Foundation: Girl Up, 2017-2019 Projects & Fundraising Chair

Advocated policy change, raised funds, and spread awareness for the empowerment of adolescent girls through global UN programs. Created presentations and facilitated discussions for weekly campus meetings.

Relevant Research and Projects

CoronaNet Research Group, 2020 Volunteer Researcher

Collected data and ran R analyses on global policy responses to the Covid-19 pandemic. Raised public awareness and understanding of government reactions to public healthcare.

Woodrow Wilson Department of Politics, 2018-2019

Research Assistant & Intern

Conducted and analyzed quantitative research (surveyed target populations and ran bivariate/multivariate statistical analyses), qualitative research (created interview protocols and interpreted primary archival research), and compiled literature reviews for a professor at the University of Virginia. Collaborated with interns to produce a new, and popular, political discourse podcast with original speech analysis methodology.

Ethical Style Journal, 2018-2019 Intern

Interviewed clothing and accessory companies about environmentally sustainable practices and supply chains. Assisted fact-checking and copyediting for editorial spreads.

Danish Institute for Study Abroad, 2017 Student

Conducted field studies and collected data in Copenhagen, Denmark and Malmö, Sweden on strategies for urban livability and resiliency in response to climate change. Utilized the following disciplinary frameworks: sociology, urban planning, and landscape architecture.