

Biography of Joseph Goffman

Nominee for the Position of Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation in the United States Environmental Protection Agency

Joseph Goffman's more-than-40-year career has centered around his public service and his dedication to protecting public health and the environment for the American people. With his decades of legal, legislative, policy and practical experience, he has helped shape clean air programs that are widely recognized for their success, effectiveness, and durability. To achieve the best results for the nation's health, environment, and economy, he places enormous value on public engagement and a collaborative, open-minded problem-solving approach, listening proactively to all sides of the issues, while faithfully adhering to the law, the science, and expert technical advice.

Since January 2021, he has served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator in EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR). Prior to that, he was Executive Director of the Environmental and Energy Law Program at Harvard Law School. In 2017 he served as Democratic Chief Counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW). From 2009 to 2017, Goffman was Associate Assistant Administrator for Climate/Senior Counsel to the Assistant Administrator for OAR. There he played a key role in developing a range of pollution control rules under the Clean Air Act.

As an EPW associate counsel, in 1989 and 1990, he worked extensively on a number of provisions of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, including Title IV, which pioneered the use of emissions trading to reduce the pollutants causing acid rain. While serving as Environmental Counsel and Legislative Director for Senator Joseph Lieberman between 2005 and 2008, he worked on, among many other things, the McCain-Lieberman and Lieberman-Warner climate bills as well as energy security legislation. In 2008 and 2009, he served as Majority Senior Counsel for then-EPW Chair Barbara Boxer. His career also included senior legal, policy and management positions at the Environmental Defense Fund, as well as attorney positions at Weil, Gotshal, and Manges, the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, the New York Legal Aid Society, and Public Citizen's Congress Watch.

Goffman grew up in Philadelphia, working summers at a corrugated box plant as a member of the United Paperworkers International Union, earning enough to attend Yale University and graduate with BA and JD degrees. He has served on the board of a nonprofit organization focused on creating interactive and virtual reality formats for providing nonpartisan information on climate science, and on the board of a fund providing support for community groups addressing the needs of families in crisis as a result of health care and educational challenges.

He and his wife live in Washington, DC and have three grown children with whom they share a love of travel, hiking, and music.