

Ken Alston, Chief of Staff at New Energy Nexus and Investment Manager at CalCEF Ventures

Ken Alston is Chief of Staff at New Energy Nexus and Investment Manager at CalCEF Ventures in Oakland, California. He leads the organization's development of investment and financing strategies for clean energy technologies.

Prior to these roles, Ken worked from 2012-2016 in the Obama Administration at the White House and U.S. Department of Energy. At the White House, Ken worked at the National Economic Council on economic and energy policy. At the U.S. Department of Energy, he worked as Special Advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Energy. Ken is co-founder of the Department of Energy's Clean Energy Investment Center, chaired the Department's Energy Finance Working Group, led the Department's efforts to secure \$4 billion in commitments for the White House Clean Energy Investment Initiative, and was an advisor on U.S.-China energy initiatives.

Ken's past experience also includes investment firms Penta Group and Investor's Circle, technology startup Simbol Materials, and strategy consultancy Booz Allen Hamilton. He is also a board member of Clean Energy Works.

He holds an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and an MS in Environment and Resources from the Stanford School of Earth, Energy, and Environmental Sciences, where he was a Chevron Fellow, and a BA from the University of Virginia, where he was an Echols Scholar and Holland Scholar. Ken is a frequent speaker at conferences and events including the Global Climate Action Summit, ChinaWeek, the Berkeley Energy & Resources Collaborative (BERC) Energy Summit, the National Association of State Energy Officials annual meeting, at the University of Texas, the POWERGEN Africa Conference in South Africa, and the Conference on Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Green Energy Finance in Taiwan. He has judged startups competitions on behalf of the MIT Clean Energy Prize, the Clean Energy Leadership Institute (CELI), the Berkeley Cleantech University Prize, and Cleantech Open, as well as guest lectured at Stanford University.