Rakhi Kumar is Managing Director and Head of ESG Investments and Asset Stewardship at State Street Global Advisors (SSGA).

As Head of ESG Investments, Rakhi leads SSGA’s efforts to strengthen integration of ESG into the investment process. She is responsible for developing the firm’s ESG investment philosophy and supporting investment teams with the design and development of ESG investment products. As Head of Asset Stewardship, she oversees all of SSGA’s proxy voting and engagement activities and is responsible for developing SSGA’s thought leadership in this area. Since taking over the department, Rakhi has strengthened SSGA’s stewardship program by incorporating a risk-based approach; developed and implemented new corporate governance, sustainability ESG and portfolio performance screening tools; identified stewardship priorities that drive SSGA’s annual stewardship efforts; and increased integration with investment teams across SSGA’s global investment centers.

Rakhi is Chair of SSGA’s ESG Investment Working Group and is a member of SSGA's Senior Leadership Team, Global Proxy Review Committee, International Class Actions Committee, ESG Business Working Group and State Street’s Corporate Responsibility Working Group. She is also a member of the Council of Institutional Investors’ Corporate Governance Advisory Council and a member of the Principles of Responsible Investors’ (PRI’s) Bondholder Engagement Working Group.

Rakhi earned her MBA ('02) from Yale University and her Bachelors of Commerce ('95) from Bombay University. She has been a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India since 1997. Rakhi was named to the 2016 NACD Directorship 100, the annual list of the most influential people in the boardroom and on corporate governance. In 2015, she was a recipient of the North America Industry Leadership Award by the 100 Women in Hedge Funds group for her work in the field of corporate governance. Prior to that, Rakhi was named as one of the ten most influential people in corporate governance in 2014 by the Global Proxy Watch magazine.