Virginia Tenpenny serves as vice-president of Global Social Impact at Starbucks Coffee Company and executive director of The Starbucks Foundation. With her team, Virginia works with partners around the world to guide global long-term investments that improve livelihoods and strengthen communities. Among her team’s current goals are removing barriers to opportunities for U.S. military veterans and spouses, opportunity youth, and refugees around the globe. Additionally, she oversees Starbucks community initiatives focused on civic engagement, community service, and disaster relief.

Virginia serves as a champion to the Starbucks Women’s Impact Network, Armed Forces Network, and Welcoming Refugees as Partners Alliance. Outside Starbucks, Virginia serves on the board of USA for UNHCR, an organization that protects refugees and empowers them with hope and opportunity. Virginia also serves on The LAGRANT Foundation board which focuses on providing internships and scholarships to ethnic minorities pursuing careers in advertising, marketing, and public affairs. And beyond our borders she serves as an advisor to A Bridge for Girls, a non-profit creating opportunities for vulnerable young women in Rwanda.

Virginia joined Starbucks Ethical Sourcing team in 2006 to develop and implement social responsibility standards for Starbucks global manufactured goods supply chain. Before her current role, Virginia served as director of Public Affairs for Latin America, leading communication strategy and developing a regional community investment model.

After graduating from the University of Colorado in 1999, Virginia taught English in Vietnam and Ecuador before moving to Seattle in 2003. She started her career in corporate social responsibility with Nordstrom.