

Tom Rand

Managing Director at MaRS Cleantech Fund I, L.P. at MaRS Cleantech

Toronto, ON, CA

Experienced, bare-knuckled approach to cleantech, finance, policy, climate science and associated global economic opportunities and risks.

Description

Tom Rand is a venture capitalist, author, advisor, and currently acts as both the Managing Partner at MaRS Cleantech Fund as Senior Cleantech Advisor at the MaRS Discovery District, in Toronto, Canada.

Active in the cleantech sector both as a venture capitalist and from a policy perspective, Tom understands the challenges entrepreneurs face. His focus at MaRS is on new ventures based on low-carbon technologies and the supporting infrastructure, such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Tom started his career as a software renegade in high school. Then he went legit and founded Voice Courier Inc. (VCi) in 1991 to service the emerging Interactive Voice Response market. Tom led VCi's expansion to over 100 employees in three countries, with revenue in excess of US\$20 million annually. The VCi Group of Companies was profitable for each of the 12 years it was under his control, and was sold in the spring, 2005.

Tom now focuses his efforts on carbon mitigation and is active in cleantech venture capital, technology incubation and commercialization, and public advocacy. Tom sits on the board of a number of clean energy companies and organizations.

Tom's book, Kick the Fossil Fuel Habit: 10 Clean Technologies to Save Our World, is distributed by Greenleaf Book Group in the US, and Fitzhenry & Whiteside in Canada. Tom's second book - working title Waking the Frog - will be released in Canada and the US in early 2014.

Tom holds a BSc in electrical engineering from the University of Waterloo, an MSc in philosophy of science from the University of London / London School of Economics and an MA and PhD in philosophy from the University of Toronto. Tom is an Action Canada Fellow.

Availability

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Author Appearance

Industry Expertise

Cleantech, Renewables and Environmental, Environmental Services, Energy, VC and Private Equity

Topics

Carbon and Climate Science: Industrial Endgame?, Cleantech, Climate Change, Clean Energy, Economics

Affiliations

MaRS Discovery District, MaRS Cleantech Fund, Cape Farewell

Sample Talks

Waking the Frog: Unlocking our Paralysis

Based on Tom's upcoming book - Waking the Frog - an in depth and hard-hitting analysis of our existing paralysis on climate change, and remaining possibility for action. By understanding the systemic reasons underpinning our underwhelming commitment to climate action - psychology, economics, market dynamics, and sheer momentum - we can begin to unlock our economic and technical might on the defining problem of the 21st century.

Kicking the Fossil Fuel Habit: 10 Clean Technologies to Save Our World

A bare-knuckled approach provided by a seasoned and pragmatic entrepreneur on the necessity, possibility and difficulty of making a transition to a low-carbon economy. The talk includes an overview of low-carbon infrastructure, cutting edge clean technologies, capital requirements combined with an underpinning of climate science.

CleanTech and Smart Technology Trends

This workshop will focus on clean technologies and new technologies around smart grid that provide buildings and municipalities with efficient and effective measures to reduce energy costs and dependency.

Past Talks

Building North America's™ Greenest Hotel

TEDxToronto

Moderator of "CleanTech and Smart Technology Trends"

The 7th Annual Renewable Energy Conference

KEYNOTE SPEECH

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KEYNOTE SPEECH

Canadian Responsible Investment Conference

KEYNOTE SPEECH

IEEE Canada Women in Engineering National Conference

KEYNOTE SPEECH

E3 Symposium of "Education for a Sustainable Energy Economy"

Lived it Lecture â€“ **Cleantech**
MaRS Event Series

CleanTech
Canadian Business & Technology Conference

KEYNOTE SPEECH
Investing in Tomorrowâ€™s Infrastructure â€“ How Smarter Choices Can Help Battle Climate Change

KEYNOTE SPEECH: Kicking the Fossil Fuel Habit â€” **Drivers and Opportunities for Municipal Governments**
2012 Sustainable Communities Conference and Trade Show

KEYNOTE SPEECH
Environment Week 2012

The Sustainable Metropolis: The business of smarter, sustainable cities
CityAge â€“ The Innovation City

Environmental Action: The Path to a Flourishing Region
Greater Toronto Summit 2011

KEYNOTE SPEECH
Gala 2011 - Greater Toronto Chapter of the CaGBC

KEYNOTE SPEECH
Energy 2011 â€“ A Lean and Green Future: Making Energy Visible

KEYNOTE SPEECH: Kick the Fossil Fuel Habit
Lakeshore Planning Council Annual General Meeting

KEYNOTE SPEECH â€“ **Kicking the Fossil Fuel Habit: Possibility and Necessity**
Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival

KEYNOTE SPEECH
BOMEX 2011

Technology & Sustainability
3rd Annual Brick Works Forum on Leadership, Innovation and Sustainability

Carbon â€“ **How Low Can We Go: The Scope and Scale of Clean Energy**
VX Canada 2011

KEYNOTE SPEECH â€“ **Sustainability: The Shift to a New Economy**
VX Canada 2011

Education

University of Waterloo
BASc Electrical Engineering

King's College London, U. of London
M.Sc. Philosophy of Science

University of Toronto
M.A. and Ph.D. Philosophy

Accomplishments

Managing Director “MaRS Cleantech Fund

The MaRS Cleantech Fund provides early-stage funding to cleantech companies through its strategic relationship with the highly successful MaRS Discovery District. MaRS is where science, technology and social entrepreneurs get the help they need. Where all kinds of people meet to spark new ideas. And where a global reputation for innovation is being earned, one success story at a time.

Author “Kick the Fossil Fuel Habit: 10 Clean Techniques to Save Our World

In Kick the Fossil Fuel Habit, author Tom Rand, (engineer, Cleantech authority, venture capitalist, pragmatic entrepreneur and philosopher) provides an in-depth look at ten technologies that together can bring a clean future, free of fossil fuels. Tom provides education and hope. His personal views and anecdotes are combined with a hardheaded engineering and business perspective. Beautiful color photographs bring the text to life.

Board Member “Environmental Defence

Since 1984, Environmental Defence has been inspiring change by connecting people with environmental issues that affect their daily lives in their homes, workplaces and neighbourhoods. We are Canada's most effective environmental action organization. We challenge, and inspire change in government, business and people to ensure a greener, healthier and prosperous life for all.

Board Member “MMB Research

Founded in January 2008, MMB Research is a Toronto-based engineering firm with industry leading expertise and experience in wireless, embedded, and Smart Energy technologies. Our mission is to utilize this expertise to broaden and accelerate adoption of Smart Energy technology by creating software, tools and services that help our customers rapidly bring smart energy solutions to market.

Board Member â€™“ Morgan Solar

Morgan Solar was founded in 2007 to develop next generation solar power technologies that will make solar energy significantly less expensive. Based in Toronto, Canada, Morgan Solar has pioneered a whole new approach to designing and manufacturing solar modules. The result is market disruptive products that lead in efficiency, durability, and cost. Morgan Solar combines revolutionary optics with well-established manufacturing processes to make environmentally friendly energy available to all.

Advisory Board â€™“ Hydrostor

Hydrostor is a Canadian company in the energy sector based in Toronto, Ontario whose technology focuses on using compressed air as the medium for storing energy. The scalable and low cost nature of the technology provides grid-scale electricity storage products which help ensure existing power and infrastructure systems are used more efficiently and helps with the integration of intermittent renewable power.

Director â€™“ VCI Green Funds

The VCI Green Fund is a private venture fund, founded by Tom Rand in 2005. The fund provides seed and venture capital to companies developing technologies that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from energy use, particularly CO2. Efficiencies and alternate sources are each considered target areas of application. We help by providing capital and active on-going participation; advice and involvement at the board level.

Action Canada Fellow

In 2008, Tom was made an Action Canada Fellow. Action Canada is a national fellowship program for promising young Canadians. The program enhances Fellowsâ€™™ leadership skills, broadens their understanding of Canada and its policy choices, and builds an exceptional network of leaders for our future. Through its program, Action Canada creates a highly connected network of leaders with leadership development skills who are committed to Canadaâ€™™s future.

Member â€™“ Canadaâ€™™s 2012 Clean50

Tom was named as a member of Canadaâ€™™s 2012 Clean50, which honours individuals who have made significant contributions to Canadaâ€™™s sustainability and clean capitalism. Tom was chosen from over 300 applications for his tireless advocacy of clean energy in Canada, and the financial viability of green technologies.

Outstanding Commitment to the Environment, Earth Day Canada 2013

Reflection of leadership on environmental issues within the business community.

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