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Mark Cuban's Wonderview development to use T. Boone Pickens' waste-generated power

An ongoing development in Dallas called Wonderview on a property US billionaire Mark Cuban originally planned to build a Chicago Cubs stadium on will have a data center portion. The mixed-use campus will be powered by a plant that uses municipal waste to generate energy.



“This site was going to be the site for the Chicago Cubs Stadium at one time,” Ken Walter, senior managing director at [CASE Commercial Real Estate](#), said. CASE is the exclusive developer for Cuban's companies.

**[Walter presented a case study about the Wonderview project and its renewable energy source at this week's DatacenterDynamics conference in Dallas](#)**

About three years ago Cuban, owner of the NBA team Dallas Mavericks, tried to buy the baseball team Chicago Cubs. The acquisition did not go through, but the Wonderview land was secured and ready to go, so Cuban decided to go with a mixed-use development.

The development will include a Mavericks training facility, a medical center for the City of Dallas, potentially two film studios (Cuban also owns Magnolia Pictures and the cable TV network HDNet) and a 150,000 sq ft data center, Walter said.

The the initial plans called for the shell to house four data centers, together providing about 50,000 sq ft of data center floor, but the company has placed bids on multiple design-build data center projects for the site, some of which it is likely to win, so the original plans may change.

A unique feature of the future campus is the way it will be powered, getting a large portion of its load from a plant that converts sewer sludge, medical waste and garbage into electricity. Whatever it needs beyond waste-generated capacity it will take from the grid.

The waste-to-energy plant will be built on the Wonderview site by [Synergy Renewables](#), a company backed by another US billionaire T. Boone Pickens.

The portion of the facility's total load supplied by the Synergy plant will be dynamic and vary based on a number of factors, Walter explained. If energy prices on the traditional oil markets go up, the waste plant could provide as much as 100% of the load.

If the traditional energy cost remains flat, the renewable portion of the equation will be smaller. At the moment it costs slightly more than grid power, Walter explained. Depending on the tenants, the price premium of renewable power may not be an issue, however, as there are many companies out there that value renewable energy and do not mind paying extra for it.

A big advantage of the waste-powered plant is price stability, as price of fuel for the plant (garbage) does not increase over time. "The beauty of this model is that you can actually fix your cost for a long period of time," Walter said. "We can guarantee our price for 20 years."

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