

Bellevue's tallest towers reaches full height

07:41 AM PDT on Wednesday, May 14, 2008

By JANE MCCARTHY / KING 5 News

BELLEVUE, Wash. - What has become Bellevue's tallest building reaches its full height of 43 stories Wednesday.

Developers at the Bellevue Towers are marking the milestone with a "topping out" celebration Wednesday. A topping out ceremony is generally held when the last beam is placed at the top of a building still under construction.

Bellevue Towers stakes its place at the top of the Bellevue skyline, becoming the tallest building there. In fact, it's considered the largest residential-only high rise in the state. The tallest of the two towers reaches 43 stories skyward, thanks to new building codes.



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Bellevue Towers developers say the 540 condominium homes will use 30-percent less energy and water than industry standard.

"Basically they're twice as high as they otherwise would have been," said Scott Eaton, Gerding Edlen Development.

The developers say the 540 condominium homes will use 30-percent less energy and water than industry standard. The towers are being built using low or no volatile organic compounds.

"So hopefully these are really healthy buildings to live in," said Eaton. "We source as many materials as we can from sustainably harvested forests."

The model condominiums are luxury condos. The developer took design cues about what the Bellevue buyer wanted by touring homes for sale in the area.

"When you walk into some of these homes that are '60's, '70's ranch style homes and look at the kind of redecorating that's been done in these homes, people dial them up," said Eaton.

The developer even started building one kitchen and set of appliances, ripped them out and started over again.

The condos aren't scheduled to be completed until November, but one-third of the condos are already sold. They range in price from \$450,000 to \$9.7 million.