

Affordable housing construction keeping crews busy

By: [Josh Kulla](#) in [Construction, photo slideshows](#) August 5, 2019 8:50 am



Robert Betschart, a carpenter with Wood Mechanix, trims the edge of a prefabricated wall panel at the Argyle Street Apartments in North Portland. (Josh Kulla/DJC)

Several months after [installation of a massive dry well](#), construction of the **Argyle Street Apartments**, in Portland's **Kenton** neighborhood, is in one of its busiest stages.

Crews are framing walls, installing mechanical and electrical and plumbing systems, placing windows, and wrapping the building with a weather barrier expected to help the project gain **Earth Advantage** gold certification.

Walsh Construction is the general contractor for the [affordable housing project](#) at 2133 N. Argyle St. **REACH Community Development Corp.** is developing the project, which was designed by **MWA Architects**.

Use of prefabricated wall panels by Pacific Wall Systems of Olympia, Washington, has significantly reduced the number of carpenters needed, according to Rascoe. Instead of a crew of 30 to 40 carpenters framing walls by hand from scratch, barely half that number are not only framing walls, but also installing joists and sheathing walls, he said.

