Fog cannons are the new dust busters!

Revolutionary new technology has been installed at Scunthorpe BOS Plant's slag bay to reduce the environmental impact in the area.

Fog cannons that spray water onto the slag bay are being installed in a bid to minimise the dust emissions in that area.

The slag bay is an area where slag from the vessels is cooled before sending to be processed at the Metal Recovery Plant so it can be put back into the steelmaking process as scrap.

Eric Groot, Area Manufacturing Manager Hot Metal and Raw Materials, said: "The slag bay is one of the worst culprits for dust emissions at the BOS Plant. "Once the slag is cooled we have to dig it up and transport it to the Metal Recovery Plant. This digging action creates dust. "The fog cannons have proven effective in other companies across Europe. We are working closely with the supplier who has guaranteed that the cannons have the ability, if used correctly, to eliminate the dust completely."

The technology works by the cannons spraying a mist-like fog onto the affected area, the droplets combine with the dust particles, become heavy and then fall to the ground.

"In short, the dust is suppressed by the fog," said Eric. "And there's not just the environmental benefit either. By minimising dust, we have better control of the area and operations flow better."

The fog cannons are just one of the steps being taken by the company to reduce the environmental impact to the local area. Similar types of equipment are being considered for other areas across the Scunthorpe site.

Steelmaking Improvement Manager Roly Davies is leading on many of the projects. He said: "It's important that we reduce our emissions to the absolute minimum. We owe this to the local community as well as having to abide by European legislation. Everyone can contribute to helping us on this challenge."

The new fog cannons will minimise the dust lift-off at Scunthorpe BOS Plant's slag bay

Engineering Excellence Focus on: Maintenance Improvement

In short, the goal of Maintenance Improvement is about being proactive and making sure that everything is sustained a sustainable manner.

"Being effective and efficient in everything we do is a key driver of business improvement and performance, and prioritise the scheduling business process, and monthly.