Types of Pollution

Every day about 8,000 tonnes of rubbish are thrown away (in England and Wales) =

Photo: André van Rooyen

the weight of 1,600 African elephants!

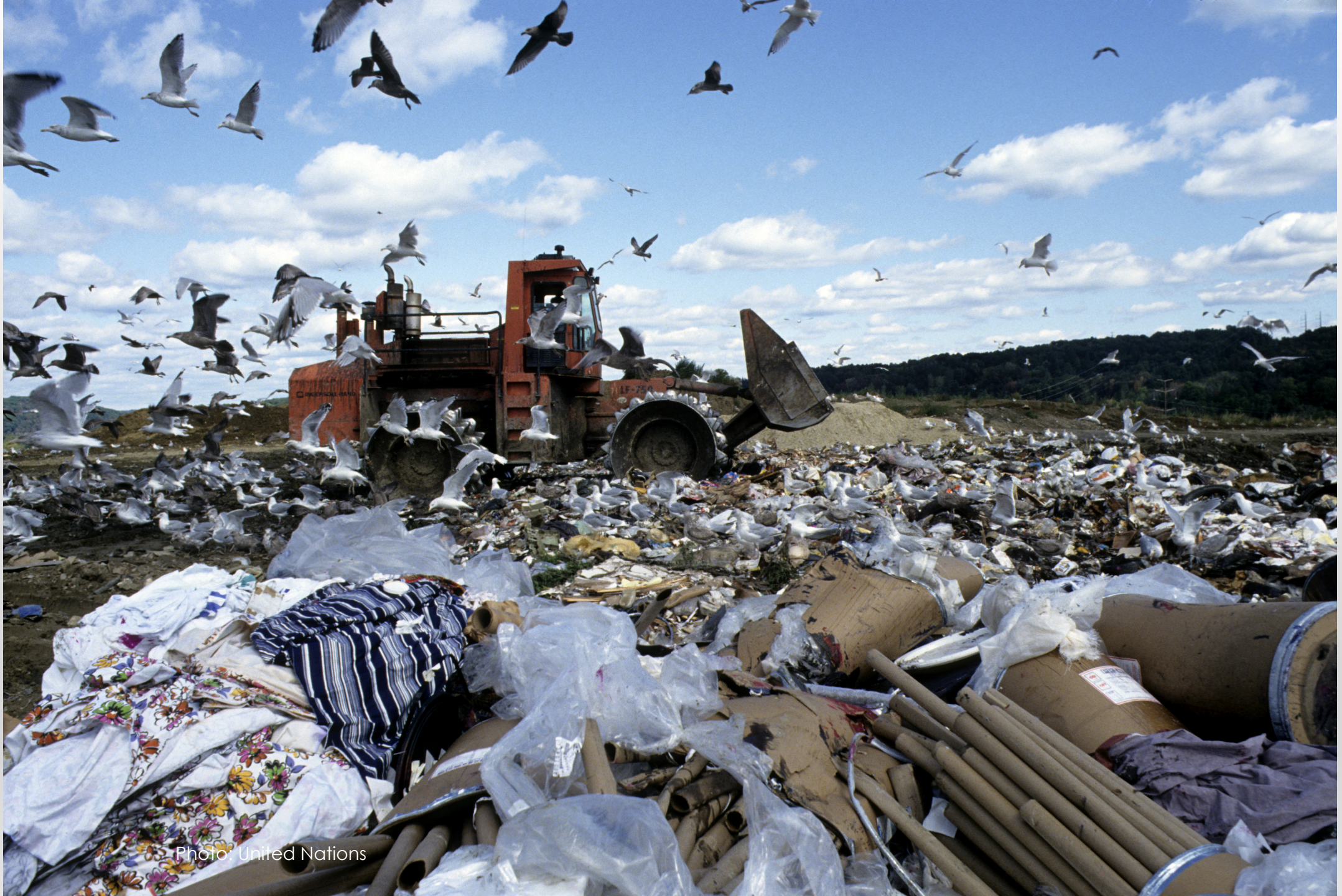
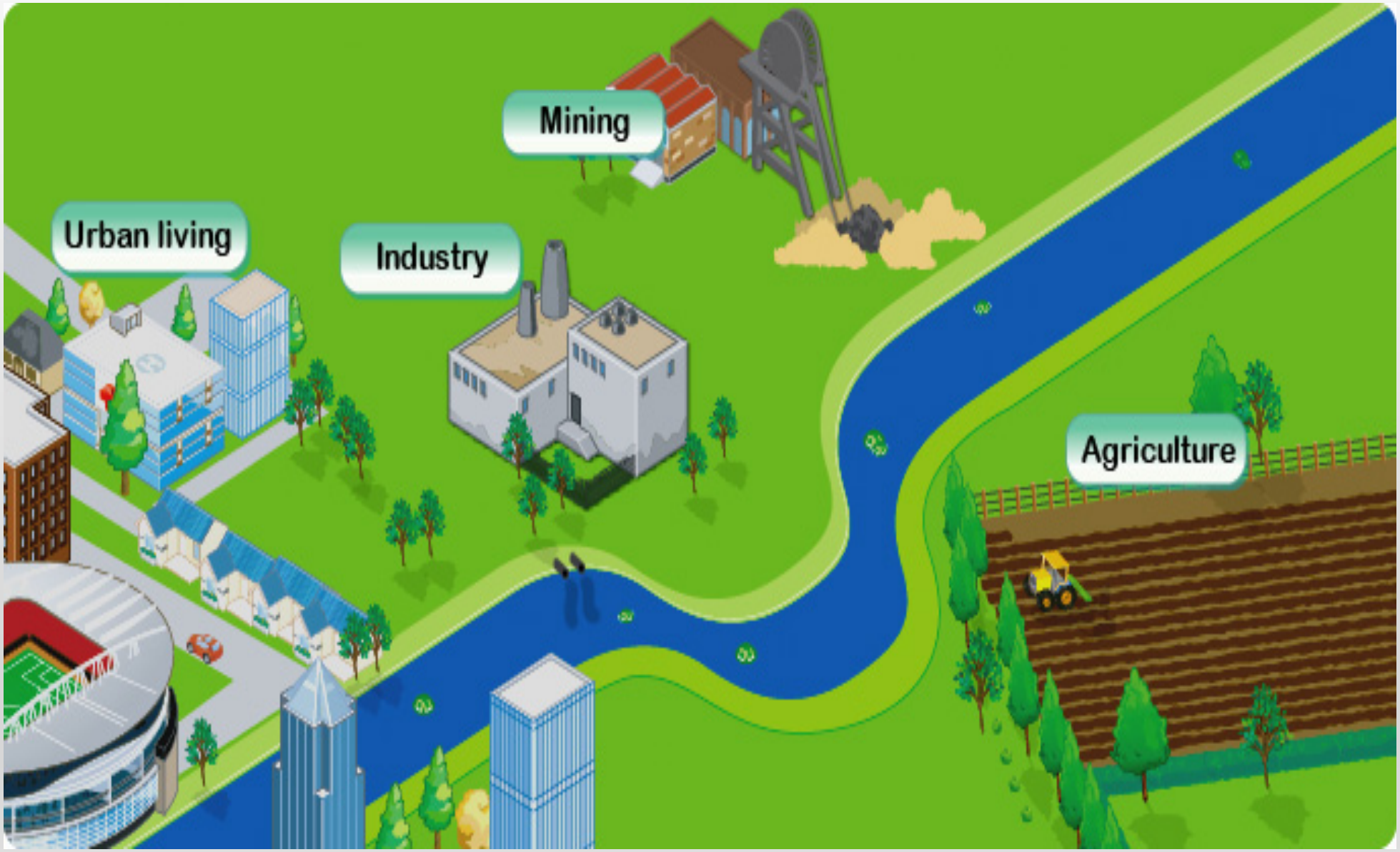


Photo: United Nations


Mining
Urban living
Industry
Agriculture

WHAT TYPE OF POLLUTION?

LAND POLLUTION

LAND POLLUTION

NOT ALL THE MATERIALS WE THROW AWAY ARE SAFE – COMMON HOUSEHOLD ITEMS CAN CONTAIN TOXIC CHEMICALS, SUCH AS POISONOUS METALS E.G. MANY SMOKE ALARMS CONTAIN RADIOACTIVE AMERICIUM.

Photo: Magnus Franklin

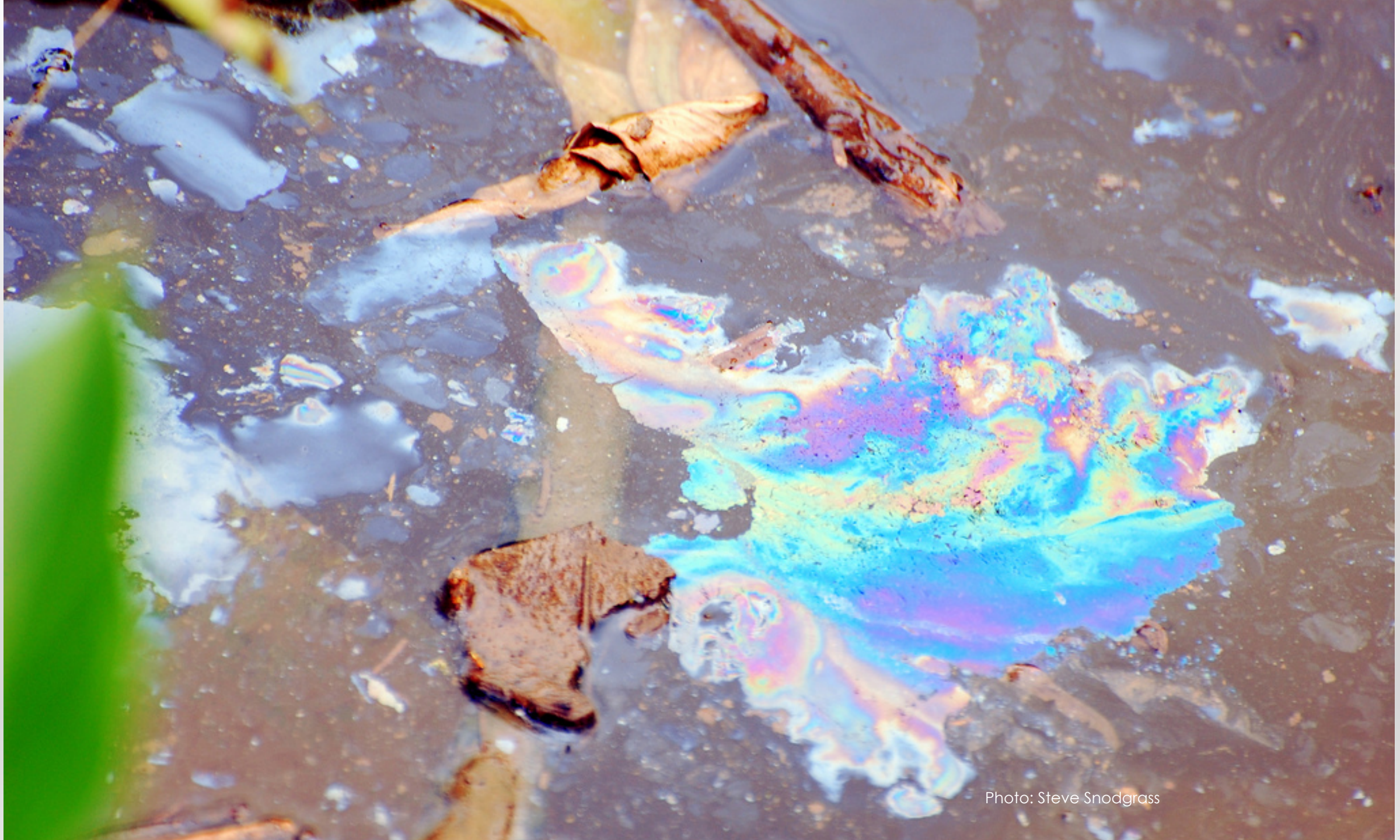


Photo: Steve Snodgrass

WHAT TYPE OF POLLUTION?

WATER POLLUTION

WATER POLLUTION

SEWAGE – IF THIS LEAKS INTO RIVERS, LAKES AND SEAS, IT CAN KILL AQUATIC ORGANISMS AND HARM HUMAN HEALTH.

FERTILISERS AND PESTICIDES – FARMERS ADD THESE TO THE LAND TO IMPROVE THEIR CROPS. BUT TOXIC CHEMICALS CAN BE WASHED FROM THE LAND INTO RIVERS, LAKES AND SEAS, DAMAGING AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS.

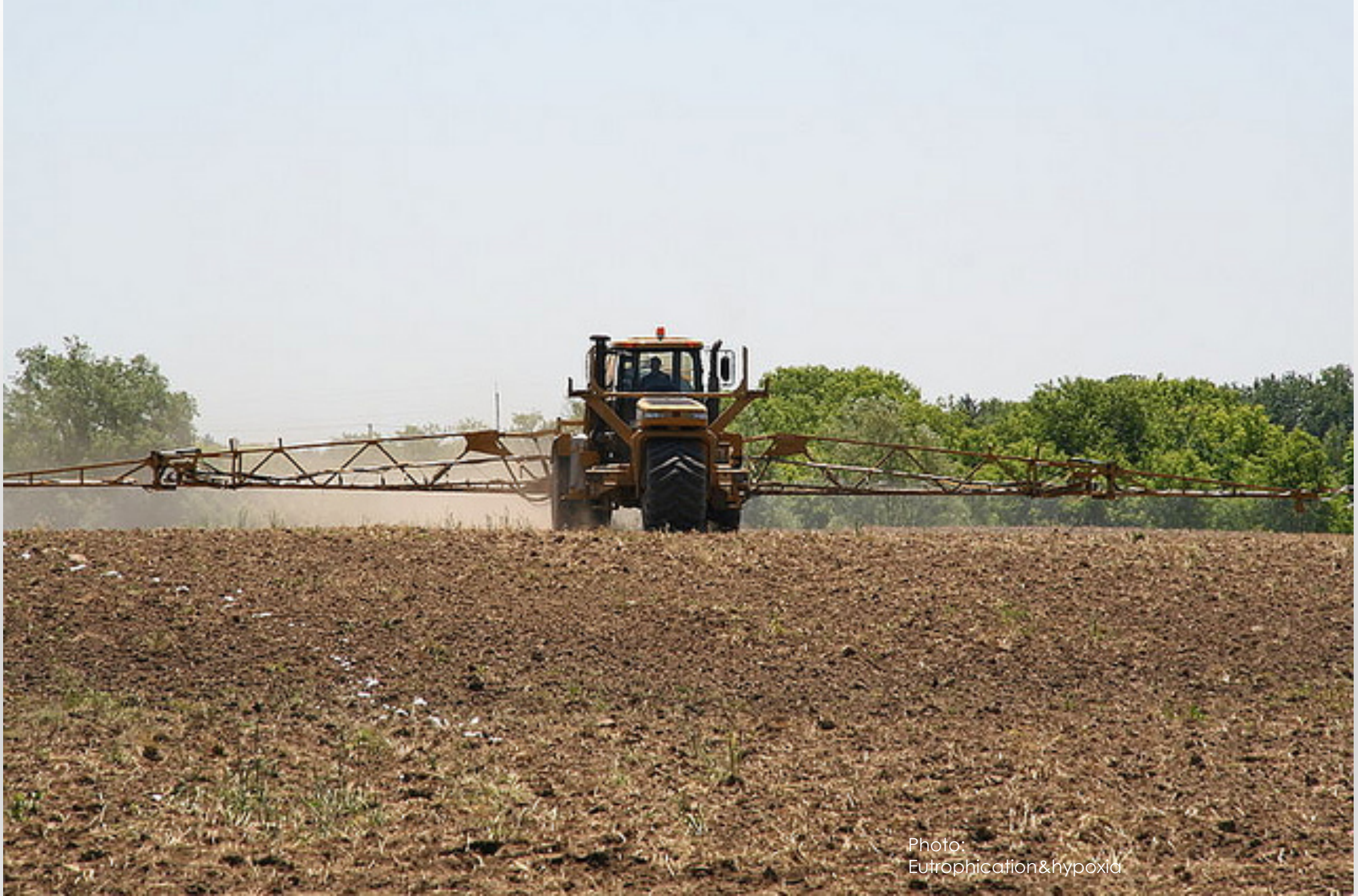
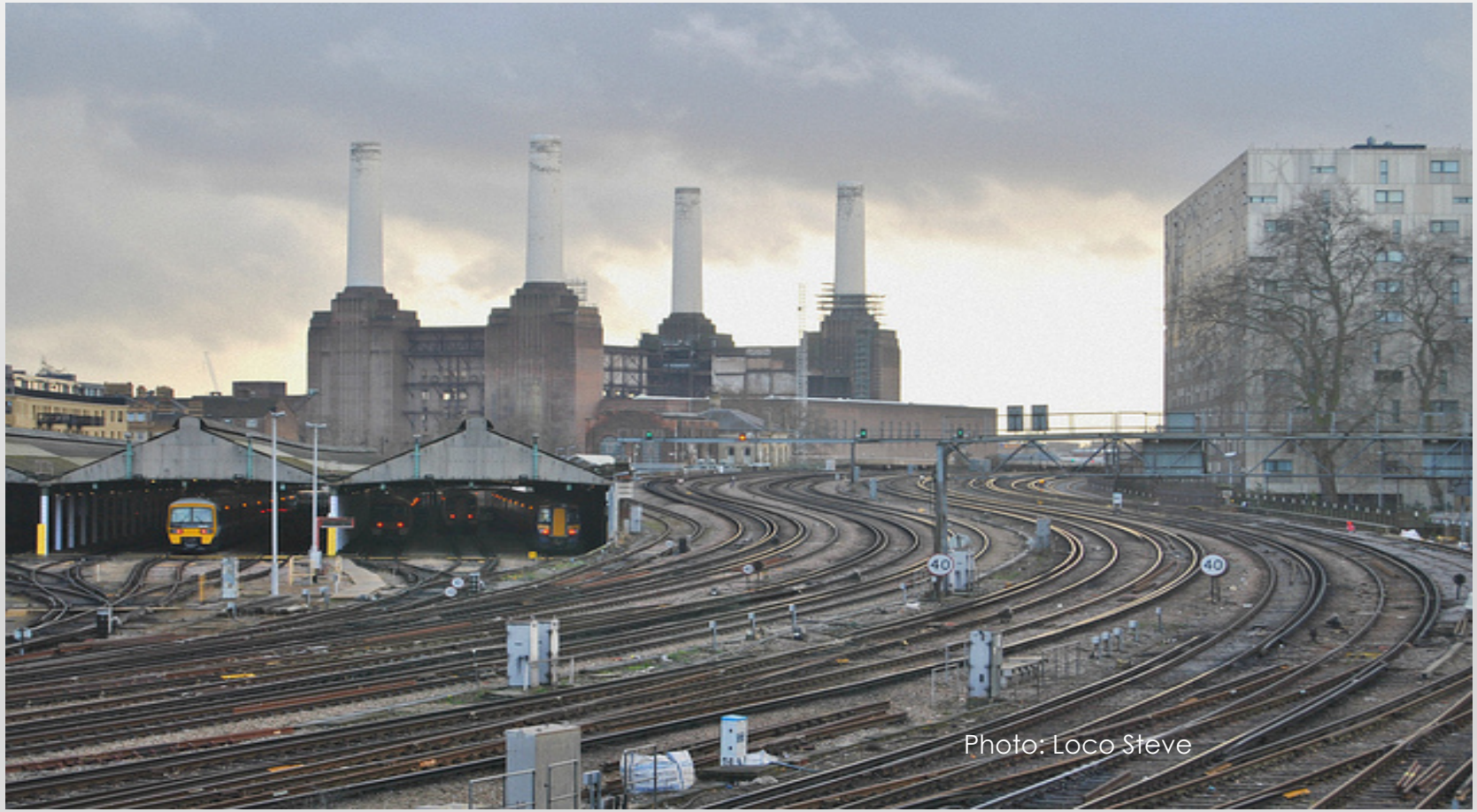
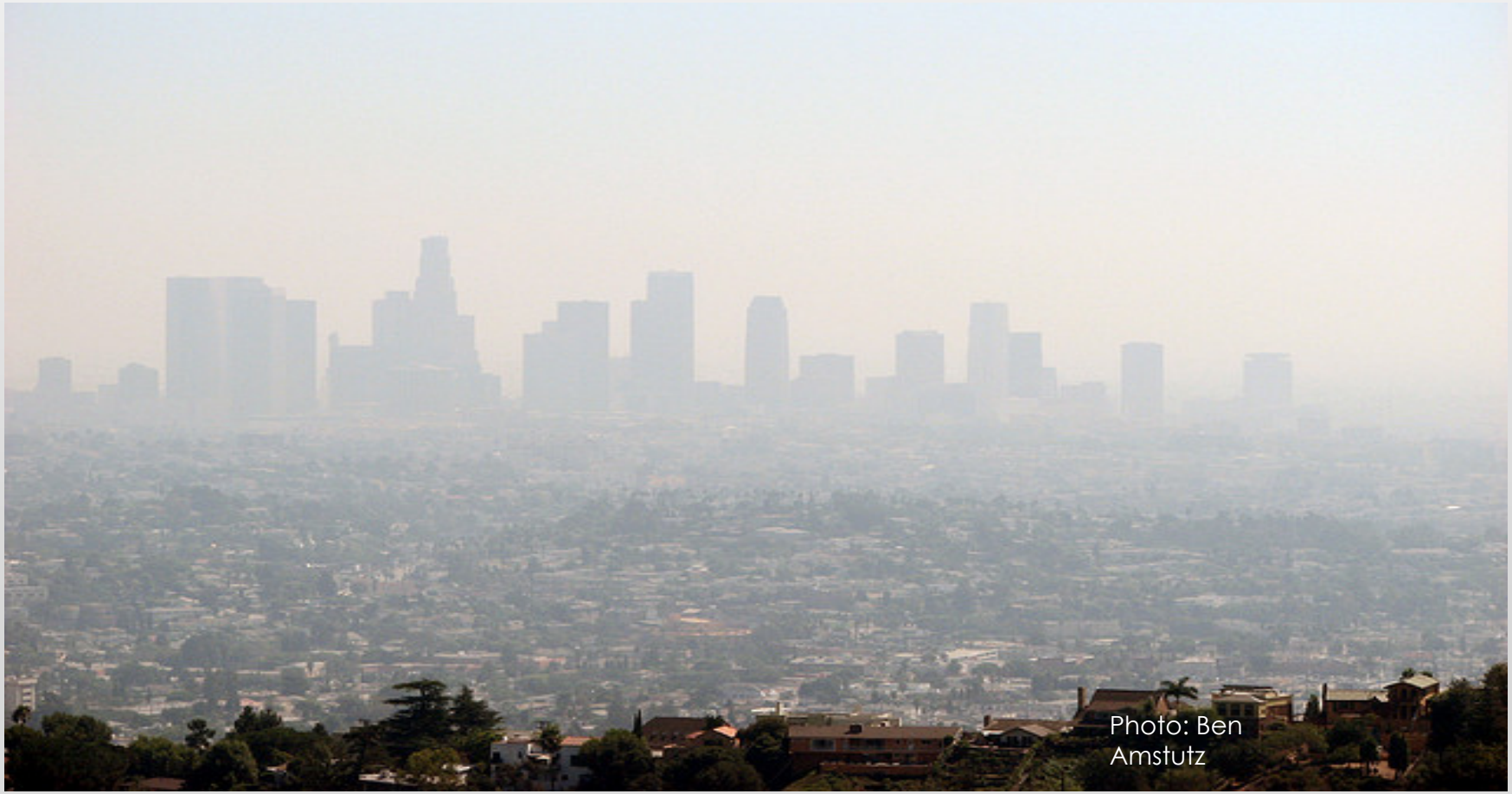


Photo:
Eutrophication&hypoxia

BATTERSEA POWER STATION



SMOG OVER LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



A DEAD FOREST, CZECH REPUBLIC

Photo: Ramon Boersboek

WHAT TYPE OF POLLUTION?

AIR POLLUTION

AIR POLLUTION

THE MOST COMMON SOURCE OF AIR POLLUTION IS THE BURNING OF FOSSIL FUELS – OIL, GAS AND COAL. THIS USUALLY HAPPENS IN VEHICLE ENGINES (CARS, BUSES, LORRIES, TRAINS, PLANES, SHIPS ETC.) AND POWER STATIONS.

THE MOST COMMON SOURCE OF AIR POLLUTION IS THE BURNING OF FOSSIL FUELS – OIL, GAS AND COAL. THIS USUALLY HAPPENS IN VEHICLE ENGINES (CARS, BUSES, LORRIES, TRAINS, PLANES, SHIPS ETC.) AND POWER STATIONS.

CARBON DIOXIDE IS RELEASED WHEN FOSSIL FUELS ARE BURNED. THIS IS THE MOST ABUNDANT GREENHOUSE GAS, SO IT CONTRIBUTES SIGNIFICANTLY TO GLOBAL WARMING.

SULPHUR DIOXIDE AND NITROUS OXIDE ARE GREENHOUSE GASES, BUT THEY ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO ACID RAIN. THESE ACID GASES ARE PRODUCED WHEN FOSSIL FUELS ARE BURNED. MOST OF THE GASES ARE BLOWN INTO THE SKY AND WHEN THEY MIX WITH CLOUDS, IT CAN CAUSE RAIN TO BECOME MORE ACIDIC. THIS CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS FOR PLANTS, ANIMALS AND PEOPLE. IT CAN HAVE TERRIBLE EFFECTS ON A FOREST AS THE ACID TAKES AWAY IMPORTANT MINERALS FROM THE LEAVES AND SOIL. THE TREES CAN BECOME VERY ILL AND EVEN DIE, RESULTING IN DEAD FORESTS.

Next time we will look at the impact of climate change, deforestation and habitat destruction.