# Algal Blooms in River Thames

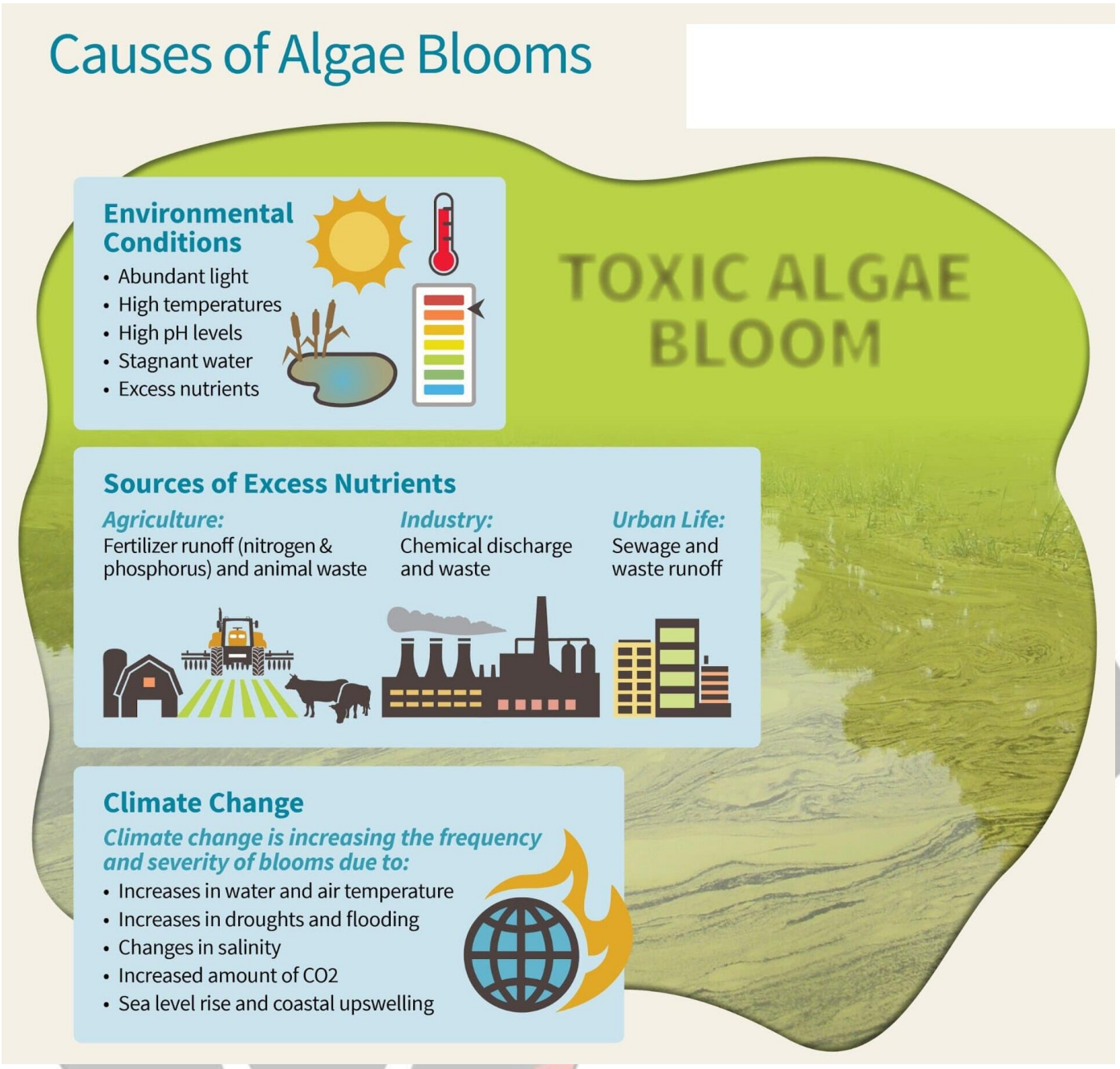
**Source: DTE**

A study has revealed that **climate change** is increasing the risk of **algal blooms** in the **River Thames (England)** despite an **80% reduction in phosphorus loads** over four decades.

- An **algal bloom** is the **overgrowth of microscopic algae** or algae-like bacteria in **fresh, salt, or brackish waters.**

**Key Findings:**

- **Rising river temperature** is driving the growth of **spring diatom blooms** and **summer cyanobacterial (blue-green algae) blooms**, which **deplete oxygen**, harm aquatic life, and increase drinking water treatment costs.
  - **Algal blooms** also restrict **recreational activities** like fishing and swimming.
- Despite an **80% reduction** in **phosphorus** since 1985, its concentration remains **above safe limits**, sustaining **algal growth.**
  - **Excess nitrogen and phosphorus block sunlight** and deplete oxygen, threatening marine ecosystems.




**River Thames:**

- It is **346 km** long **(Longest in England**, second longest in the UK after **River Severn)**.
- It originates from **Thames Head, Gloucestershire**, and drains into the **North Sea via the Thames Estuary**, with **Nore sandbank** at its mouth.
    - **London is on the bank of Thames**.
- It supplies **two-thirds of London's drinking water** and has been a **vital trade route**.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