

# Nagano Prefecture Nagano Nishi High School – UNESCO School Committee

## What We Can Do for Global and Local Issues

The UNESCO School Committee at Nagano Nishi High School leads year-round projects that aim to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) both within and outside the school and take action on both local and global issues. As high school students, they use their perspective to link everyday actions with worldwide challenges, encouraging thoughtful behavior and community engagement.

### Raising Awareness of Fair Trade Through Chocolate

Around Valentine's Day, the committee organized an event to sell fair trade chocolate at school. Through this, they introduced problems like child labor and unfair trade practices behind the production of cocoa and sugar. By using chocolate, a familiar item for many students, as a starting point, they helped their peers understand that consumer choices are directly connected to global issues.

### Tackling Local Bamboo Waste: The Bamboo Paper Bag Project

During the school's cultural festival in June and July, students collaborated with local companies to create eco-friendly shopping bags made from bamboo paper. They learned that neglected bamboo forests can damage ecosystems and increase landslide risks. By turning this unused bamboo into a resource, they took on a local environmental problem head-on. The students collected design ideas from across the school and created original bags, which were used instead of plastic bags during the festival. Their efforts ultimately led to the complete elimination of plastic bags – a visible success that boosted their confidence.

### Clothing Drives and a Schoolwide Flea Market

The students also joined the “Clothes for Smiles” project, collecting unwanted clothing to support refugee aid. In addition, they held a flea market at school, selling donated clothes and accessories from students' homes and the local community. Through this event, they encouraged visitors to reuse rather than throw away, and sparked conversations about sustainable consumption.



## Looking to the Future

These student-led initiatives helped connect personal choices to broader global challenges and gave participants a strong sense of the power of “taking action.” Moving forward, the committee hopes to focus more deeply on specific issues, explore them in greater detail, and continue developing new ideas to make a positive difference in both their community and the wider world.